

## Egyptian MP dies of sunstroke

ASSIUT (AFP) — An MP has died of sunstroke after a visit to his sweltering district in Upper Egypt, a hospital official said Saturday. Hossam Kilani, 55, fell ill after making the rounds Friday in Dairut, part of his district 300 kilometres south of Cairo. He died before reaching hospital, the official said. Fifteen people in the region were hospitalised for heat-related problems on Thursday and Friday, he added. For nearly two weeks Egypt has been pounded by a heat wave due to continue at least until Monday, said an official with the National Meteorological Bureau. The temperature in Cairo, even in the shade, is 38 degrees Celsius and in Upper Egypt has been reaching 43 Celsius, he added.

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## 'Don't impeach Clinton'

NEW YORK (AFP) — The U.S. public has no appetite for impeaching President Bill Clinton even if he lied under oath about his relationship with former White House intern Monica Lewinsky, according to a poll released Saturday. The Newsweek poll found only 39 per cent believed Mr. Clinton should be impeached if he lied when he previously denied in sworn testimony that he had an affair with Lewinsky. 35 per cent said an apology would be sufficient, while 19 per cent said no action would be necessary if Mr. Clinton lied. The poll found the public to be much more divided, however, if Mr. Clinton was found to have encouraged others to lie about the affair. 44 per cent said he should be impeached under such circumstances, but 50 per cent disagreed.

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## Heat wave continues

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan will continue to be affected by hot weather accompanied by a low pressure originating from the Indian Subcontinent and extending to the Arabian Peninsula with temperatures reaching 36-37 degrees Celsius in Amman on Tuesday.

Meteorology Department source told the Jordan Times Saturday that "it is usual the East Mediterranean region be affected by such low Monsoon pressures during this time of year."

Asked about weather conditions in other countries in the region, the source said that all Eastern Mediterranean countries will be affected by the same low pressure, which will continue through Tuesday.

The source said, however, that it is too early to predict whether the prevailing weather will continue or end after Tuesday.

## Arab League chief blasts London, Washington for refusing flight to Libya

CAIRO (AFP) — Arab League chief Esmat Abdul Meguid criticised the United States and Britain Saturday for refusing his request to the U.N. Sanctions Committee to allow him to fly to Tripoli despite the air embargo on Libya.

"The rejection by Britain and the United States within the U.N. Sanctions Committee shows beyond a doubt that these two countries are going far indeed in their interpretation of the sanctions" imposed on Libya since 1992, he said in a statement.

He also said the rejection "contradicts the international resolutions upon which the Arab League and other regional organisations have based their efforts to find a fair and equitable solution to the Lockerbie crisis."

Earlier Saturday, an Arab League official said Mr. Meguid will fly to Tunis and then go on to Tripoli by car Sunday due to the committee's refusal to grant him an exemption.

"He will fly to Tunis and then drive to Libya because the U.N. refused to grant him an exemption," the official, who asked to remain anonymous, told AFP.

The United States and Britain, both members of the U.N. Sanctions Committee, voted on Thursday Mr. Meguid's request to fly to Libya directly.

A British diplomat said the request was denied because his visit did not have a humanitarian purpose.

The committee oversees the air and arms embargo imposed on Libya in 1992 over its refusal to hand over for trial in Scotland or the United States two men suspected of the 1988 bombing of a U.S. airliner over Lockerbie, Scotland, which left 270 dead.

Mr. Meguid told the committee the purpose of his visit was to discuss new developments in the Lockerbie affair with Libyan leader Muammar Qaddafi.

London and Washington had previously rejected Libyan offers to try the men in a third country. But last week they indicated they would agree to a trial in a third country provided it was held under Scottish law.

## Shukri: JTC may not need strategic partner

By Ahmed Naser  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — There is no need to sell off 40 per cent of the Jordan Telecommunication Company (JTC) to a strategic partner as originally planned by the government, Ali Shukri, the company's chairman of the board of directors declared yesterday.

However, Mr. Shukri added that "if privatisation and the introduction of a strategic partner are essential, then it is necessary and logical that the majority of people and not the minority benefit."

Mr. Shukri was quoted as saying by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, "if the decision is not beneficial to all, then it must be reviewed."

He said: "Justifying the introduction of a strategic partner as a means to bringing in new technology into the company or increasing the volume of its [subscriber] base cannot be accepted."

In early 1997, Jamal Sarairoh, minister of transport and telecommunications announced that 26 per cent of JTC would

be sold off to a strategic partner. Later this figure grew to 40 per cent.

In October of last year, Bassam Saket who took over the post from Mr. Sarairoh said that the partner would be chosen within six months.

In early July, Mr. Shukri was appointed JTC chairman of the board after retiring from the post of Director of His Majesty's Private Office and Director of His Majesty's Royal Communications.

Mr. Shukri denied that he was appointed to this post to supervise the transfer of 40 per cent of the shares to the strategic partner.

A few months back, Reuters reported that U.K. Price Waterhouse consultants, who have been working on reorganising the Jordanian telecommunication sector including making JTC more commercially driven, have evaluated its assets at \$1.2 billion.

According to a source within the sector, British Cable and Wireless submitted an offer worth \$320 million, and half that by U.S. Southern Bell.

Mr. Shukri said that even if the government pushed through with the sale of the 40

per cent shares, the price for these shares would be decided by "us and not by what is being offered."

Noting that one of the bidders proposed retaining the company's employees for two years before laying them off, Mr. Shukri said that this would create social problems, "something that we do not desire at all."

He said that the company was working on a new salary scale for experienced employees.

The JTC boss, however, said that if 40 per cent of JTC's equity is to be sold, then priority should be given to Jordanians and not a strategic bidder, especially employees who should get shares corresponding to their years of service.

Cabinet ministers contacted by the Jordan Times did not wish to comment.

Last month, Minister of Transport and Telecommunications Sami Gammo was quoted by the Arabic daily Al Ra'i as saying that a strategic partner for the JTC would be chosen within a month.

## Palestinians call on Washington to put 'real pressure' on Israel

GAZA CITY (AFP) — A top Palestinian official said Saturday he hopes to see Washington apply "real pressure" on the Israeli government to unblock the deadlocked Middle East peace process.

"We hope that the United States will put real pressure on Israel," Palestinian International Cooperation Minister Nabil Shaath told reporters here.

Mr. Shaath was speaking at a press conference with Palestinian President Yasser Arafat upon Mr. Arafat's return from a trip to Austria, Morocco and Turkey.

Mr. Shaath said that Mr. Arafat's trip was aimed at

"developing more Arab and international pressure upon Israel."

Mr. Arafat called his meetings "very important, positive and strong."

He also said he was "sorry that everything remains frozen" in peace talks with Israel.

In Casablanca, Mr. Arafat attended a meeting Thursday

of the Jerusalem Committee of Islamic states which called on its members to "take another look at their relations with Israel, including closing Israeli offices and missions" in their countries.

Mr. Shaath warned Israel

that "if they do not put forward new proposals conforming to the American initiative, we will leave the matter to [U.S. Secretary of State] Madeleine Albright and the American administration."

He said the American administration would then be obliged to force "Israel to honour its engagements."

No progress was made in a meeting of Israeli and Palestinian negotiators on Thursday.

Following the meeting, Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erekat told AFP that "unfortunately" the Israeli side presented no map for an Israeli pull-back on the West Bank.

Washington has proposed kick-starting the stalled peace talks with an Israeli pull-back from 13.1 per cent more of the West Bank. The Palestinians have agreed to the proposal, which so far has been rejected by the Israeli government.

Last week, Israel suggested setting aside three per cent of the U.S. proposed 13 per cent as nature reserves where the Palestinians would not have the right to build.

The Palestinian National Authority has rejected the nature reserve idea and insisted that Israel conform fully to the U.S. proposal.

## Israeli groups set precedent by helping rebuild Palestinian home

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — Sixty activists from Israeli peace groups sought to create a precedent on Saturday by helping to rebuild a Palestinian house previously demolished by the Israeli army.

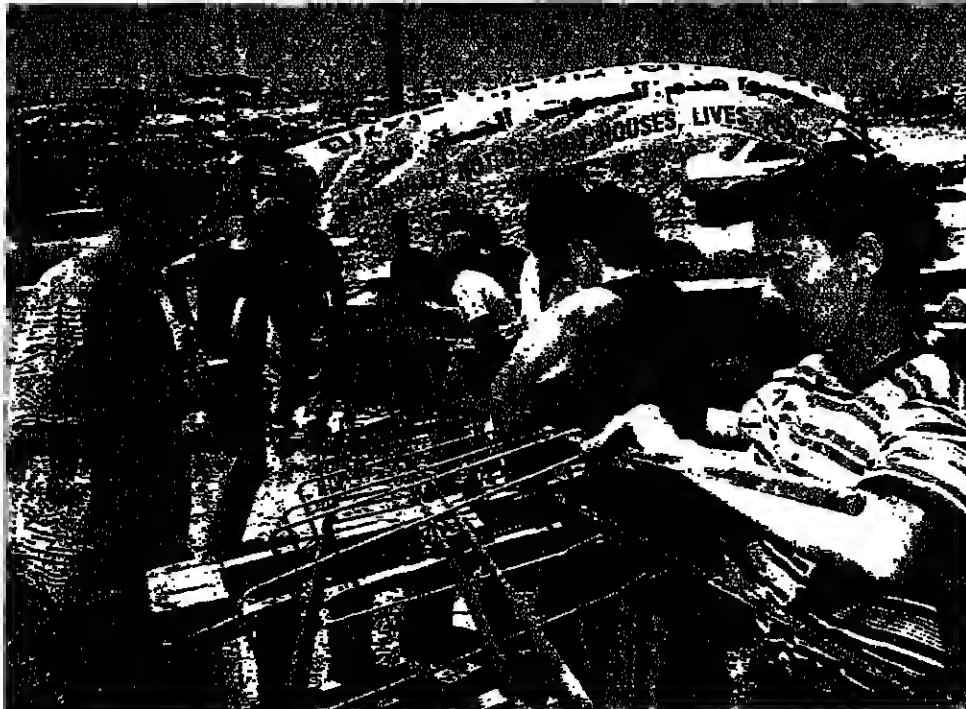
"This is the first time that Israelis and Palestinians have joined forces in rebuilding a house destroyed by the army," Jeff Halper, spokesman for the committee against house demolitions, told AFP.

The remains of the house are situated in rolling hills below Anata village near Jerusalem's Shuafat refugee camp and are overlooked by the Hebrew University on Mount Scopus, a Jewish enclave in the city's Arab eastern sector.

The building belonged to Salim Shawamra, a building technician and father of six children. It consisted of two bedrooms, a kitchen, a sitting room and bathroom.

"This house is not blocking anyone, it's not harming anyone," said Mr. Halper, as the activists watched by dozens of journalists set about clearing the surrounding area and shifting building materials. The Israeli army destroyed the house on July 9 on the grounds that it was built without a permit. Clashes ensued between local Palestinians and Israeli security forces in which 11 Palestinians were hurt, including a 15-year-old boy who lost a kidney.

All the houses in the area, some of which are shacks belonging to bedouin, have no permit and all have received notice of demolition, Mr. Halper said.



An Israeli peace activist works with Palestinians in Anata in Arab east Jerusalem, Saturday. The activists from Gush Shalom and the committee against house demolitions are helping — illegally — to rebuild a Palestinian house destroyed by the Israeli army on July 9 (Reuters photo)

The Palestinians frequently complain that the Israeli authorities never grant them building permission in areas under their control including Arab east Jerusalem which the Jewish state captured and annexed in 1967.

Mr. Shawamra had asked the Israeli authorities for a building permit on four separate occasions but was turned down each time.

"That afternoon we were mounting a demonstration in front of the offices of the civilian administration and heard that, unusually, the army was destroying a house in east

Jerusalem. It was unusual because normally they demolish houses early in the morning," Mr. Halper said.

"We came here and watched as the army destroyed the house. Because we know Salim we asked if we could help rebuild it," Mr. Halper said.

"Many Palestinians are scared to come forward but this guy agreed," he said.

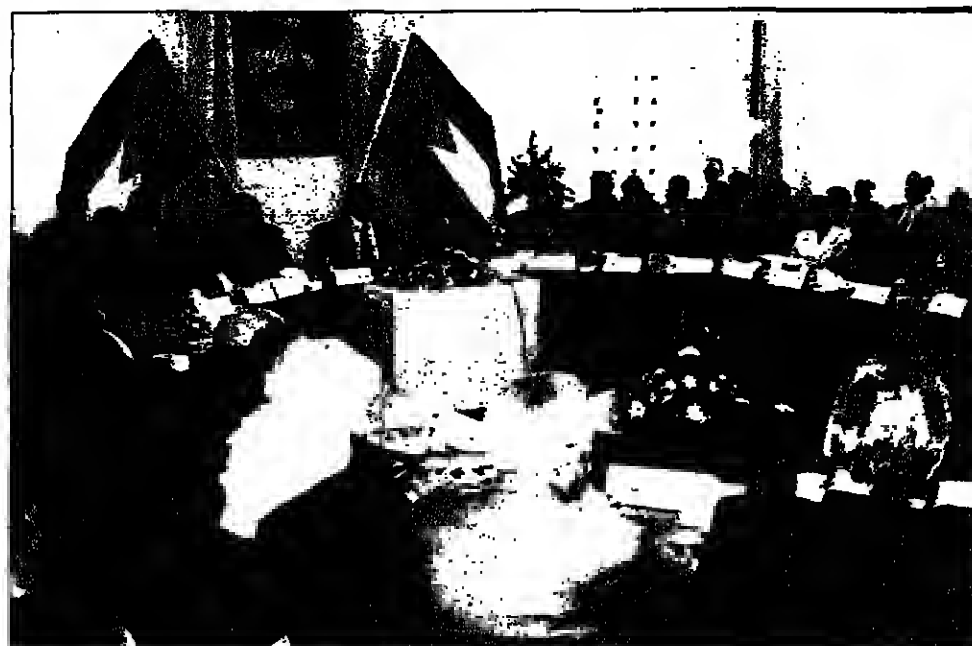
As of Saturday the Israeli army had not intervened despite the fact that the building work, which is expected to take about a week and cost about \$20,000, is illegal.

But the activists expect the security forces to arrive on Monday.

"Most of the civil administration are religious and do not work on Saturday. Tomorrow [Sunday] is a religious holiday when, ironically, Jews mourn the destruction of the second temple. So it will probably be Monday," Mr. Halper said.

Whatever happens the Palestinian family will stay in the area.

"If they demolish the house I will stay. I have nowhere else to go. I will not leave this place," Mr. Shawamra told AFP.



The government holds its regular Cabinet meeting in Madaba on Saturday just before Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali left for Mayo Clinic in the U.S. to meet His Majesty King Hussein (See story on page 8) (Photo by Youssef 'Allan)

## Majali off to visit King

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali left for the United States on Saturday to visit His Majesty King Hussein, who has been undergoing treatment at Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, since July 14.

Meanwhile, King Hussein on Saturday received telephone calls from Arab leaders, inquiring about his health and wishing him a speedy recovery.

The King received phone calls from King Hassan II of Morocco and Palestinian President Yasser Arafat.

In a related development, a Royal Decree was issued Saturday appointing Deputy Prime Minister for Services Affairs and Information Minister Abdullah Ensour as acting Prime Minister and Defence Minister during the absence of Dr. Majali abroad.

## Rare Iris tops other flowers in well-wishers' bouquets for King

ROCHESTER (AP) — Everything's coming up black Irises in one U.S. city, thanks to a famous patient at the Mayo Clinic — King Hussein.

Orders for the rare flower, and a barrage of bouquets in every other hue, are being sent by well-wishers and dignitaries around the world.

The King has been hospitalized at the Mayo Clinic since July 14 for chemotherapy treatments for lymphoma. His arrival has caused a boom in the floral business.

Several florists said they

have filled more orders for the King than for any other Mayo patient, including former U.S. first lady Barbara Bush, who was at the clinic in 1996 and 1997 for hip surgery.

"We're getting about three to four orders a day," said Kevin Patton, owner of Whiting's Flowers and Greenhouse.

According to area florists, King Hussein does favour the black iris — the Jordanian national flower. Arrangements have cost \$100 to \$1,500.

"We use a lot of exotic flowers as well as more

traditional roses and daisies," said Lori Bronk, a designer from Rochester Floral and Gifts.

Mr. Patton's company completed a \$1,000, 1 1/2-metre flower arrangement Thursday, the most expensive bouquet ever ordered at his shop. The bouquet of exotic flowers took more than three hours to put together.

Most flower arrangements go to King Hussein's suite and then are distributed throughout the clinic and hospital, a Mayo spokeswoman said.

## Soares: Annan to meet U.N. team on Algeria in Lisbon

ALGIERS (R) — U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan will take part in a meeting of a panel of prominent personalities in Lisbon next week to prepare a report on their fact-finding mission in Algeria.

"Yes, we will meet Annan," former Portuguese President Mario Soares, head of the U.N. panel, said on Saturday.

The six-member team, created by Mr. Annan arrived in Algiers 11 days ago to gather information on more than six years of violence to the oil and gas producing North African country in which thousands of people were killed.

The team has met government leaders, heads of opposition parties, human rights activists, lawyers of leaders of the now banned Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), parliamentarians and diplomats.

But it has respected a key government condition — no meetings with FIS leaders — in return for pledges for "full access" during its two-week mission.

The panel has also visited the sites of two massacres of civilians, a prison and several other cities and villages.

ed to Annan."

"The report itself will not be completed before one month at least," he said. "It will not include recommendations as this would be decided by the secretary general himself."

Mr. Soares said that his team planned to meet Algerian President Liamine Zerroul before it ends its mission on Tuesday or Wednesday.

"We still have much work to go," he added after the panel met Leila Aslaoui, a former minister of youth and sports whose husband was slaughtered by Islamists last year.

Ms. Aslaoui said that the U.N. team asked "specific questions about the security situation...and the abuses committed by security forces."

"I told them that many officials and members of the security forces have been dismissed from service for committing these violations," she told reporters.

Human rights at home and abroad have criticised the army for not responding quickly enough to rebel attacks. They have also accused security officials of "extra-judicial killings, forced disappearances and torture" in their fight against radical Islamists.

Western estimates say more than 65,000 people

were killed since early 1992 when the authorities cancelled a general election in which the FIS had taken a commanding lead.

The panel met earlier on Saturday Islamist lawyer Mohammed Taberi, brother-in-law of FIS leader Abbassi Madani who has been under house arrest since 1992 for undermining state security.

"From the start, we had no intention of meeting any FIS leader. But we were keen to receive three lawyers close to Islamists so that we can say in our report that we have listened to all the parties," former Prime Minister Abdul Karim Al Kabarti said on Saturday.

Mr. Kabarti, the only Arab on the panel, visited Mahfouz Nahnah, head of the Islamist Peace Society Movement, who has rejected several requests for a meeting with the panel.

Mr. Nahnah had condemned the panel's visit as a "blatant interference in Algeria's internal affairs."

The team also includes former Indian Prime Minister I.K. Gural, former United States U.N. Representative Donald McHenry, Simone Veil, the French former president of the European Union, and Kenyan Attorney-General Amos Wako.









HER ROYAL HIGHNESS PRINCESS BASMA visits Kafrein Social Services Centre and Northern Bayyoudah Society for Social Development in Subeishi. The Princess called for greater efforts to make Jordan top the list of prosperous developing countries. Princess Basma said: "We are following the directives of King Hussein that call for adopting the slogan of team work." She stressed the need to create a suitable mechanism to achieve the best results, and thanked all concerned parties that supported the establishment of Bayyoudah society and cited it as a sample for joint cooperation among "our national corporations" (Peta photo)

## Arab Orthodox communities accuse Jerusalem patriarch of selling, leasing land to Israelis

By Rofan Nahhas  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Representatives of the Arab Orthodox community in Jordan, Palestine and the diaspora on Saturday lashed out at the Greek Orthodox Patriarch in Jerusalem, accusing him of selling and leasing lands to Israelis belonging to the Arab Orthodox community in the occupied territories and Israel, a charge denied by the patriarch.

"It is the time to put an end to the heinous acts of the patriarch which endanger church properties in the Holy Lands," chairman of the Orthodox Society in Jordan Raouf Abu Jaber said.

Dr. Abu Jaber, who was speaking at a press conference following a one-day meeting of Arab Orthodox communi-

ties in Jordan, Palestine, the U.S., Canada and Europe, called for the "Arabisation" of the Greek Orthodox church in the Holy Land.

"Patriarchies in other regions of the world are presided over by nationals of those regions," said Dr. Abu Jaber. Patriarch Deodoros I is of Greek nationality.

Dr. Abu Jaber said around 70 dunums of the patriarchate's land at the controversial site of Jabal Abu Ghnaim, known as Har Homa to Jews, was secretly sold last year and the proceeds from the sale were sent abroad.

Israel recently completed the confiscation of Jabal Abu Ghnaim in Arab East Jerusalem, where 6,500 Jewish houses are due to be built.

He said that originally, the lands belonged to the Orthodox Arabs, who

sold their properties to the church after they were unable to afford the high property taxes imposed by the Israeli government.

He also called on the Jordanian government and the Palestinian National Authority to take all necessary legal measures to stop and cancel the sale and lease of lost land.

Patriarch Deodoros I in a statement denied the society's accusations, saying that the Patriarchate never sold any piece of land, but invested in some projects by leasing the lands for a long period of time.

The statement added that the revenues went to meet the Orthodox Patriarchate's needs, such as the construction of schools and churches.

The statement also asserted that the Patriarchate never sold or leased lands

in Jabal Abu Ghnaim or Mar Elias areas.

Chairman of the Orthodox Society in Jerusalem, Marwan Toubasi, said the Africa-Israel Investment Company, one of the leading investment companies in Israel, bought the right in 1993 to build a hotel on a 300 dunums of land belonging to Arabs, although the Patriarchate's greater responsibility should be to meet the needs of its community by building churches, schools and apartments.

Mr. Toubasi stressed that the Orthodox Patriarchate is a spiritual leadership and "should not act as a real estate office."

The Orthodox society has decided to form an investigation committee to follow the legalities of the matter.

## 'Community' is key in 30 years of successful research at Tell Hisban archaeological project

'There is no better way to be a student than to be a student at Hisban'

By Rami G. Khouri  
Special to the Jordan Times

HISBAN — Commitment, continuity, cooperation, and community involvement were the themes of a celebration Friday to mark 30 years of fieldwork on the Hisban archaeological project.

The Hisban project was initiated in 1968 by Siegfried Horn of Andrews University, and has since expanded to investigate other sites in the area, such as Tell Jalul and Tell Umeiry, under the aegis of the Madaba Plains Project.

Several people who participated in that first season in 1968 were among an array of speakers here, and an attentive crowd filled the Byzantine church on the summit, spilling over into the adjacent Hellenistic fortress and the Mamluke governors' palace and baths.

Master of ceremonies Lawrence Geraty, now president of La Sierra University in California, USA, said the initial season of work in 1968 launched the Hisban community and their foreign archaeological colleagues on "a voyage of discovery."

That voyage has been driven by "our desire to know who the people were who lived here, from the beginning of time to the present," Dr. Geraty said, adding that more than 1,000 people have contributed to the dig.

Fieldwork over the past three decades has revealed the remains of successive settlements and towns that once exploited Hisban's strategic location and beautiful natural environment.

The earliest settlements dated from the Iron Age (12th-6th Centuries B.C.), followed by Hellenistic and Roman towns (3rd Century B.C. to 3rd Century AD), a flourishing town in the Byzantine and Umayyad eras (4th to 8th Centuries AD), and a revival of the settlement in the Mamluke period (14th-16th Century). Hisban's next "rebirth" was during the 20th Century; the town is now inhabited predominantly by Ajarmeh tribe members. The area is also important for its many cave dwellings and shelters used throughout antiquity into early

this century.

The project director at Hisban today is Oystein La Bianca, professor of anthropology at Andrews University, whose focus is on both the site's ancient history and the recurring human and environmental cycles that determine how the residents of Hisban have always been able to ensure their basic food needs.

Dr. La Bianca worked at Hisban in 1968 and is now stressing two aspects of the work that maintain the pioneering nature of this project: community participation in site preservation and presentation, and the development of Hisban as an "open-air classroom" for students to learn about the archaeology and ancient history of this region of modern Jordan.

"There is no better way to be a student than to be a student at Hisban," he noted, adding that the pilot project to make Hisban an archaeological classroom can be replicated at other antiquities sites in Jordan.

Arrangements have already been made with Mahfouz Abdul Hafiz, a local teacher from Hisban, and the Friends of Archaeology in Amman to develop a local school curriculum for the site, as well as to launch regular fieldtrips to Hisban, including excavations in a corner of the site set aside for this purpose. Nelly Lama, Kathy Sullivan and others from the Friends of Archaeology Education Committee have started preparing educational materials for visiting students.

The project has also established walking trails around the large hilltop site, viewing platforms,

and explanatory signs in Arabic and English, making it easy for visitors to visit the site and appreciate Hisban's historical significance.

Dr. La Bianca urged Jordanian students who work and learn at Hisban to share the information they glean from the earth with their counterparts in the U.S. via internet.

President of Andrews University Niels-Erik Andreassen said that Tell Hisban represents a successful joint effort by Jordanians and friends from abroad "to discover another chapter in the history of the human family, to document the role of this place in the development of the three Abrahamic scriptures, and to train new generations of archaeologists who can continue the work."

His Royal Highness Prince Raad Ben Zeid, chief chamberlain, who reminded the audience that he himself had worked as a volunteer excavator on the site in the late 1960s, thanked all those who cooperated to make the Hisban project a model of international cooperation.

"We work together to know the facts of history and to learn about ourselves, and this allows us to pave the way for a better future and to work together for peace," he said.

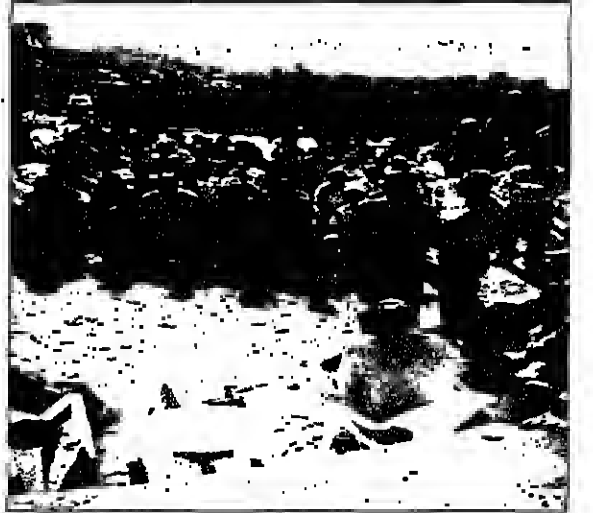
Minister of Tourism and Antiquities Akl Bilalji noted that the success of the past 30 years has prompted the government and the people of Hisban to renew Andrews University's archaeological permit at Hisban for another 30 years. He reminded scholars, "as you dig into our earth, always remember also to reach our minds and hearts, to get to know us as people and also to tell the world about us."

Director of Antiquities Ghazi Bisheh, whose first job as a young graduate was a position in 1968 at Hisban as antiquities inspector, noted that an emphasis on multi-sectoral work at the Hisban site marked a turning point in the archaeology of Jordan, and has been enhanced by the pioneering work of archaeologist producing a typology of pottery from ancient Jordan. Dr. Sauer's typology produced, from Hisban remains, the baseline against which ceramic dating is measured in Jordan.

The director of the American Center of Oriental Research (ACOR) in Amman, Pierre Bikai, commended the Hisban project for its emphasis on site conservation and presentation. He hoped that other digs would follow the Hisban precedent of returning to the site to conserve it and make it easily accessible and understandable to visitors, especially young Jordanians.

Mustafa Barareh, a Hisban native who once worked as a manual labourer on the Hisban dig and is now a successful accountant in Amman, lauded Andrews University's work in making Hisban known to the entire world. He suggested that one or two Hisban students might benefit from university scholarships, and announced that a Friends of Archaeology Hisban branch was being established in order to raise local awareness of the importance of the antiquities and to help protect them.

The Madaba Plains Project is undertaken by a consortium of universities in the United States and Canada.



CELEBRATION: Archaeologists, residents and officials celebrate Tell Hisban's long history (Photo by Rami Khouri)

## See if you get it...

By Ahmed Naser  
Special to the Jordan Times

JERASH — Whether its being walked all over or standing still, Martin Good, better known as Jacob Begood — the last name pronounced "be good" by friends and colleagues — says he enjoys his profession tremendously.

Jacob and his wife, Jo, here with the Five Star Circus, are giving a double act known as the "Beter Half" at the Jerash Festival every night at the Oval Plaza in this Graeco-Roman city.

The couple, who were once social workers and English teachers, have become wayward travellers and have performed in India, Australia, New Zealand, performing separately and with groups.

They do what Mr. Begood calls acrobatic act — a mix between romance and acrobatics — that he says, "involves my wife walking all over me."

The act itself is centred around humour and interaction, and when Mr. Begood asks the audience for a lighter, the audience almost mows him as more than 50 lighters fly through the air and land on stage.

"This is the first time that this has ever happened," he says, which prompts Mr. Begood to ask for something else. "Anybody got a gold watch?" he asks.

"It was too easy," he says, adding that audiences in the U.K. prefer to hold on to their lighters.

But this time, the audience is not as enthusiastic. "I thought that they might throw lots of gold watches and video cameras at me," he quips.

Mr. Begood does another three-player act that — known as The Last of the Mohicans — he considers more bizarre and surreal than the first. "I stand still for hours," he says, "making changes in my posture every ten to fifteen minutes."

Throughout the Last of the Mohicans, he dons black coloured mohawk punk rock gear and black makeup.

Meanwhile, Dora the Cleaning Lady moves slower than the statue itself when she dusts it, so that people notice small changes in the statue's figure, says Mr. Begood, while Dora the Dog scurries in the background.

The act has attracted festival goers that Mr. Begood described as enthusiastic. "Sometimes they get too close," he says, noting that Jordanians and the English have the same appreciation for the bizarre.

The act has nothing to do with the famed book of the same name, according to Mr. Begood, except for the occasional use of one American Indian proverb, interjected once in Mr. Begood's one-hour posturing. "When we eat the last fish and chop down the last tree, then will we know that we can't eat money."

However, there is no hidden message in this act, he says adding that the three-player act is done for pure entertainment.

The performance won a prize for best street performance in the U.K. during a performance in Guernsey, and getting the prize meant performing it on stage. "So I stood there for 10 minutes and all the audience yawned, then I got bored and left the stage," he says.

## The Grimm Brothers...

...a classic in any language, even Polish

By Dana Abu Sham  
Special to the Jordan Times

JERASH — Children had their own share in Jerash festival for culture and art last weekend.

The actors of Guliver Theatre came all the way from Poland to perform in front of barely fifty spectators.

"We are very disappointed to see such a number of audience," complained a member of the group.

However, a children's play will always remain a children's play, no matter the language in which it is performed.

From Warsaw, Poland, actors of Guliver Theatre performed three tales in the play "The Tales Of Grimm Brothers," a modern theatrical play, written by the author Bogdan Wasielewski and performed in Polish by two actors and an actress, incorporating some English words "to keep the audience from straying," said a member of the group.

Performed two years ago, "The Queen and the Player," "The Goat Little Goats," and "The Wolf." "Little Red Riding Hood," tried to convey to young spectators the serious truths hidden in classical tales.

All the tales end happily, though the last gives a warning, which Mr. Wasielewski describes. "The world is full of Red Riding Hoods and each of them has her own wolf. So I advise you to pick up flowers close to your yard because there are fewer

and fewer hunters in this world."

"You meet two forces in your life each of them will pull you in its own direction. You will have to choose. We are idealists, so we believe that love will always win," added Mr. Wasielewski.

The three actors use simple requisites, changing elements of their costumes and of the curtain to create different stories.

The use of live guitar music throughout each performance produce an effect on the young, where interaction between performers and the viewers takes



ON STAGE: The Guliver Theatre performs well-known folklore for children

## Last chance to catch City Ballet of London

By Jordan Times  
Staff Reporters

JERASH — Ballet lovers can still catch one of the extremely rare opportunities to watch a ballet here at tonight's second and last performance of "Sleeping Beauty" by the City Ballet of London at the Jerash Festival.

The City Ballet's production of Tchaikovsky's famous ballet retains intact the charm of this popular fairy tale while enriching it with modern elements.

All traditional characters are maintained, explained City Ballet Director Harold King, but Michael Rolnick's choreography makes the story clearer and more meaningful.

"Compared to the grand productions of the Russian tradition, Rolnick's version is more intimate, with 24 dancers instead of the around 90 parading on stage in the old classical versions," Mr. King said.

Steps, style, and costumes also "lean more towards the

modern."

At Jerash's Northern Theatre, the City Ballet cannot count on the scenery, which usually plays a big role in very visual ballets such as Sleeping Beauty.

"The production could lose some impact, but with a beautiful place like this, and the fact that one can still benefit from the costumes and lighting effects, a good compromise can still be reached," Mr. King told the Jordan Times.

The rest is left to the talent and technique of Oksana Panchenko, in the role of Sleeping Beauty, and South Africa's Marius Eos as Prince Florimund.

The City Ballet of London was born in 1996 from the ashes of the London City Ballet — one of the illustrious victims of the economic recession of the 1990s.

When still London City Ballet, it made two appearances at the Jerash Festival, performing Swan Lake and Coppelia several years ago.

**Jerash Festival**  
1998





# Serb forces still on the attack in Kosovo

PRISTINA, Yugoslavia (AFP) — Serbian forces continued their attacks against rebel positions in Kosovo despite a pledge from Belgrade that the fighting had stopped, ethnic Albanian sources said Saturday.

The Albanian-language press in Pristina reported Saturday that Serbian forces were continuing to attack in several regions of the province in southern Serbia, the main republic in the Yugoslav federation.

Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic assured European Union officials Thursday that the offensive against ethnic Albanian separatists had finished.

But Koha Ditore, which has close links with the rebel Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) fighting for the province's independence said: "The killing and destruction continued Friday in numerous parts of Kosovo."

Tens of thousands of refugees were still hiding in the hills, the daily added.

U.S. diplomat Christopher Hill, who has been mediating between the two sides, tried Friday to get more details from Mr. Milosevic about the end of fighting and on free access to Kosovo for diplomats and aid agencies.

One diplomat also expressed scepticism about the Yugoslav president's statement Thursday.

"We have a long experience of Mr. Milosevic," he said, adding: "He has not specified if the operation stopped in the region of Malisevo (a former rebel stronghold) or in all of Kosovo."

The Kosovo Albanian information Centre said heavy fighting had continued Friday between Serbian units and KLA fighters in western Kosovo,

in the regions of Reke, Kece and Junik, near the Albanian border.

Serbian forces also attacked more than a dozen villages south of Pristina in the regions of Lipljan and Stitje, on the main road to Prizren, the centre added. Three ethnic Albanians had been killed over the last three days there.

The reports have not been confirmed by Serbian or independent sources.

An AFP journalist witnessed special Serb police units supported by heavy units of the army controlling the Pristina-Prizren road late Friday, after what looked to have been heavy recent combat.

The official news agency

Tanjung said a Yugoslav soldier was killed Thursday during a clash with a "terrorist group" that was trying to cross into Albania.

It also reported an attack on a police patrol near Lipljan Friday morning that left eight ethnic Albanians dead and three police officers seriously wounded.

Rexhep Qosja, leader of the radical Kosovo Democratic League, condemned what he called "Serb barbarism" in Kosovo, in a statement in Saturday's Koha Ditore newspaper.

He added: "The international community is hesitating to take measures to protect the lives of children, women, old people

and other civilians who were killed as their homes were pillaged and destroyed."

One Kosovo Albanian politician told AFP Friday that the KLA had made "enormous errors" in its recent operations, though it had not lost the war.

Former Communist leader in Kosovo Mahmut Bakali said the rebels had made tactical and strategic mistakes in trying to defend positions when it did not have the strength.

But he added: "However strong the Serb forces, you must not underestimate the KLA, which is driven by a motivation shared by nearly two million Albanians living in Kosovo."

## Food, water on way to refugees in forest

PRISTINA, Serbia (R) — Food and water were being trucked in to refugees who fled to the hills of central Kosovo during a recent offensive against ethnic Albanian guerrillas, the United Nations said Saturday.

The U.N. refugee agency UNHCR said it was taking flour, mineral water, family food packages and high-protein biscuits for children in the first air convoy to the refugees, who ran away from the guerrilla-held town of Malisevo last week.

An agency official told Reuters there were many women and children among the refugees. "They're living out in the open with very little," he said.

The agency said it had made contact with some 500 people, but many more were believed to be camped in the forest.

Thousands fled their homes and villages in the area of Oranovac two weeks ago after the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) tried unsuccessfully to capture the town.

They fell back on Malisevo, a KLA stronghold for months, but were uprooted again when the guerrillas pulled out without a fight in the face of a strong attack by Yugoslav army and Serbian special police units backed by armour.

In western Kosovo, ethnic Albanian civilians faced a similar predicament.

While Yugoslav President Slobodan

Milosevic insisted that a week-long offensive against the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) had finished, government forces continued to tighten the noose around the village of Junik, another KLA redoubt near the border with northern Albania.

Elsewhere, the main road from Pristina to Prizren was closed because of shooting from guerrillas.

"They are losing now and they are going nuts," said a policeman at a checkpoint near Stitje southwest of Pristina Friday. "They are shooting at anything that moves. They have put mines on the road." The official Tanjung news agency reported a border clash along Serbia's border with Macedonia late Thursday night.

Security forces had prevented a large group of "terrorists" — Tanjung's usual name for the KLA — from crossing into the country, it said.

Serbian forces' week-long offensive scored major gains against the KLA, which is fighting for independence for Kosovo, a province of Serbia with a 90 per cent ethnic Albanian majority.

At least 500 people have been killed and 150,000 displaced in five months of fighting. Local estimates say as many as 50,000 more people have been uprooted in the latest fighting and many are now living rough in the hills, fearing to return to their homes.



Armed Serbs take a break as they patrol their village of Veliko Svinjare near Kosovska Mitrovica. The unidentified villager (left) wears an unofficial T-shirt with the Serb emblem framed with words 'Special Forces'. Ethnic Albanian guerrillas have been besieged by Serbian forces in the far west of Kosovo while sporadic fighting was reported elsewhere across the province (Reuters photo)

## Dublin frees IRA prisoners under N. Irish peace deal

LONDON (R) — The Irish government said Saturday it had freed six Irish Republican Army prisoners from a high-security jail as part of a Northern Ireland peace deal.

A justice ministry official confirmed that three of those released from Portlaoise jail were recently transferred from prisons in Britain.

They included Adrian Donnelly, who had served almost 21 years of a life sentence for murder, and Michael O'Brien who had served six years of an 18-year term for the attempted murder of a British policeman.

Mr. O'Brien was one of a handful of IRA prisoners granted temporary release recently to attend the annual meeting of the guerrilla group's political wing Sinn Féin in Dublin. Their triumphal entrance provoked outrage from the families of IRA victims.

Britain has yet to announce the release of any Northern Irish guerrilla prisoners from its own jails.

Northern Ireland minister Mo Mowlam said last week that prisoners from four guerrilla groups would be excluded from the early release programme because Britain believed they were still "concerned in terrorism".

Under the landmark Good Friday peace accord reached in April, members of the Catholic IRA and rival Protestant guerrilla groups will be freed within two years provided their organisations move towards giving up their caches of arms and explosives.

More than 200 republican and loyalist prisoners could be released by the end of the year under the scheme.

## Tsunami ranks as one of worst disasters

BRISBANE, Australia (AP) — The Papua New Guinean tsunami ranked as one of the worst civilian catastrophes Australian Defence Force personnel had encountered, a senior relief task force officer said Saturday.

"Disaster is not a strong enough word," Maj. Doug Wren, second in command of the tsunami relief effort for the Australian defence forces, said after arriving in Townsville, north Queensland, from Vanimo in Papua New Guinea's West Sepik province.

On July 17, 7-metre waves smashed dozens of makeshift villages along a stretch of northwestern Papua New Guinea. The death toll in the disaster is estimated to be about 2,100.

"It was just a moonscape when we flew over the scene in a helicopter the day after the disaster," Maj. Wren said. "To see entire villages pushed back from the beach into the forest or the lagoon was just heart-breaking."

## Japan's cyanide curry victims still sick

TOKYO (AFP) — Most of the 67 people who were taken ill after eating cyanide-laced curry in western Japan are still sick a week after the suspected attack left four dead, police said Saturday.

A police spokesman said 34 people remained hospitalised in the western city of Wakayama, while 29 others were getting outpatient treatment.

Four people including a 10-year-old boy and a 16-year-old girl died after eating the lethal curry at a summer community festival attended by about 100 people on July 25.

Police are still without a clue as to who mixed the deadly poison into the curry, which had been standing for hours before it was served, television reports said.

## Judge rejects Exxon's request for new trial

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP) — Exxon Corp.'s request for a new trial in the Exxon Valdez oil spill case has been rejected again by a U.S. federal judge, who dismissed claims that a guard interfered with the jury.

Judge H. Russell Holland found no grounds to allege that a jury outside the courtroom deliberations in the 1994 trial, showed him a bullet and his gun, and suggested that another, recalcitrant juror be "put out of

harm" by the 11-million gallon oil spill in 1989. He said the testimony of juror Rita Wilson was unreliable and that a story she told of being threatened by the guard was not credible.

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## Hundreds of protected cormorants slaughtered in New York

HENDERSON, HARBOR, New York (AP) — Wildlife officials are investigating the shotgun slaughter of 850 cormorants in northern New York, where the federally protected birds are blamed for harming the fishing industry.

State biologists found heaps of cormorant carcasses, wounded birds and chicks squeaking feebly and piles of shotgun shells during an inspection Wednesday of uninhabited Little Gallin Island in Lake Ontario.

More starving chicks were euthanised Thursday. The slaughter raises the estimated number of cormorants killed in the last two months to 1,100.

The scene included "dead and crippled birds

strewn everywhere, and dozens of orphaned chicks that need immediate attention," said John Cahill, commissioner of state environmental conservation.

Ornithologists say it is probably the largest cormorant massacre in the 25 years since the bird was protected under the Federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act. The long-necked diving birds were probably killed last week-end.

Charter guides and others have urged the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to reduce cormorant flocks, saying the birds are eating the smallmouth bass and yellow perch are prized by anglers.

Conservation officers planned to interview anglers and residents who

might be able to provide clues to the shootings.

Each dead cormorant can result in a maximum penalty of a \$5,000 fine and six months in prison.

Since a record 8,410 active nests were counted in 1996 on Little Gallin Island, the cormorant population has plunged 30 per cent. Scientists are still trying to pinpoint why.

Officials were waiting for a study on cormorant eating habits to help them put together a fisheries management plan for the area.

Other protected birds have died in recent incidents across the country.

More than 1,000 birds, including federally protected snowy egrets and blue herons, were killed July 23 when their rookery was bulldozed in

## Effort to rescue Austrian miners slowing again

LASSING, Austria (R) — Rescuers hoping against hope to save 10 men buried in Austrian mine for over two weeks struggled Saturday to bore shafts in an agonising last few metres to where the men might be.

The rescue attempt became more urgent a week ago when another miner presumed to have been killed in a massive cave-in of mud and water at the pit in the Alpine village of Lassing was found and pulled out largely unscathed.

But the other 10 men were believed to be in a much deeper hollow about 130 metres down.

Saturday drilling experts were having to use cement to reinforce a

20 cm wide shaft which had been bored to within four metres of the hollow.

The shaft would be used to lower a camera, drinks and food into the mine — but once drilling resumed, it was likely to take another 10 to 15 hours to reach the chamber.

"It is going to be late at night before the drill reaches the air pocket," said rescue operation spokesman Alfred Zechling.

Engineers were also using a milling machine flown in from Germany to smooth out a 50 cm shaft which would be used to winch the miners out, and which had been bored to within four metres of a tunnel leading

to the hollow before it cracked.

That larger hole was being drilled through a concrete-reinforced steel tube which had previously been used for sending supplies into the mine.

No sounds had been heard from the depths of the mine since Wednesday when rescuers picked up noises, possibly knocking, that could have come from someone trapped in shafts or tunnels.

With no definitive news of whether the men, presumed dead until 24-year-old Georg Hainzl was pulled out last Sunday, were dead or alive, villagers were getting increasingly impatient.

"They have been going on now for 15 days and we feel too little is being done," said Manfred Drexler, one of a handful of villagers who unfurled banners outside the mine protesting against the handling of the operation.

"Do human lives don't count!" one banner asked.

The 10 were buried on July 17 after descending into the magnesium silicate mine in an attempt to find Georg Hainzl, trapped 60 metres down by a smaller collapse a few hours before.

He emerged from his 11-day ordeal in surprisingly good health despite having been without food or water

before the accident, the pilot had changed direction and changed procedure," going from Instrument Flight Rules to Visual Flight Rules, Mr. Deveaux told a press conference in Lyon, from where the plane departed.

He refused to discuss any link between the accident and the fact it had been flying over the passenger boat Norway, anchored off Quiberon.

Lorient deputy prosecutor Marie-Annick Rossignol said the section of the main fuselage, found next to the wings and side engine of the Beechcraft, would not be brought to the surface until Sunday or Monday.

Both planes are about 15 metres down.

"Several minutes

## 15 victims of French air crash named

RENNES, France (AFP) — The 15 victims, including three children, of a mid-air collision off the west Brittany coast of France were named Saturday, local press reported.

A Beechcraft plane carrying 14 people and a Cessna with one person on board collided Thursday and plunged into the Atlantic 10 kilometres off the coast near the town of Quiberon.

The dead included two babies and a seven-year-old girl, the regional dailies *Telegramme* and *Ouest-France* reported.

One of the dead was named as German Richard Moritz from Stuttgart.

The other victims, all French, included Beechcraft pilot Jean-

Michel Barthe, 31, co-pilot Stephane Viauzy, 27, and pilot of the Cessna Francis Guilbert, 69.

Four more bodies were found late Friday in the submerged wreckage of the two planes, bringing the total number of bodies recovered to 10.

The search for the two flight recorders from the larger Beechcraft plane resumed at dawn Saturday.

Franklin Deveaux, chief executive of the Proteus regional airline which owned the Beechcraft 1900, said Friday that just before the accident the pilot had flouted company procedure by switching from instrument control to visual control.

"Several minutes

before the accident, the pilot had changed direction and changed procedure," going from Instrument Flight Rules to Visual Flight Rules, Mr. Deveaux told a press conference in Lyon, from where the plane departed.

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"Several minutes

A manslaughter enquiry was launched Friday to shed light on the cause of the accident, she said.

Investigators began quizzing witnesses to the accident Friday. They hope the incident might have been caught on camcorder by one of the day-trippers visiting the Norway.

The accident occurred as the Beechcraft was approaching Lorient airport in Brittany at the end of a flight from Lyon in south-east France.

Investigators will examine recordings from the control towers in the western French towns of Lorient and Brest, and from Lyon from where the Beechcraft took off.

World News

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Free Flights on Sundays





Kashmiri families take refuge in a small room of a guest house in Chinari, 51km south of the Pakistani-administered Kashmir capital Muzaffarabad, after fleeing areas hit by Indian shelling. Hundreds of people living along the Line of Control have been forced to migrate after border clashes erupted July 30, killing scores of people (AFP photo)

## Kashmiri shelling toll hits 70 as five more Indians killed

SRINAGAR, India (AFP) — Five people including two Indian soldiers were killed Saturday raising the death toll from border shelling between Indian and Pakistani forces in Kashmir to 70, officials said.

"The shelling is continuing in four border areas... however, the intensity of the firing has reduced," defence spokesman Major Prashottam told AFP.

He said at least 25 people, mostly civilians, had died in Indian territory since Thursday, when the artillery duel between the two armies began.

Police sources said nine of the dead were Indian soldiers, adding hundreds of villagers had fled their villages along the line of control separating the two armies in Kashmir. Maj. Prashottam said Pakistani troops opened "unprovoked heavy artillery and mortar shelling on our positions and civilian villages at several places."

"Indian troops have retaliated with effective shelling on Pakistani positions," he added. Pakistani officials said Saturday 45 people had been killed in their part of the disputed territory since the shelling began.

They said 11 people, including three women and six children, were killed when Indian troops shelled Naganari village in Pakistan-controlled Kashmir late Friday.

Naganari is several kilometres away from the border and residents said they had never considered their village vulnerable.

Officials said Pakistani troops retaliated and inflicted "heavy losses" on the Indian army positions.

The start of the border fighting coincided with talks between premiers Atal Behari Vajpayee of India and Nawaz Sharif of Pakistan at a regional summit in Sri Lanka.

The talks, the first since the two nations carried out rival nuclear tests in May, failed after Pakistan said no improvement in ties was possible without a resolution to the Kashmir dispute.

India wants to set aside the dispute, the cause of two of the neighbours' three wars, while working towards closer trade ties.

Cross-border firing occurs fairly regularly along the 1,300-kilometre line of control in Kashmir, although heavy artillery fire is less frequent.

Pakistan wants a United Nations-brokered referendum to decide the future of Kashmir and has stepped up calls for outside mediation following the nuclear testing begun by India two months ago.

India insists the dispute must be solved bilaterally. Both claim the entire territory of Kashmir, a Muslim-majority state, as their own.

## 'Support Aung San Suu Kyi with sanctions on Myanmar'

WASHINGTON (AFP) — The best way to support the goals of Nobel peace laureate Aung San Suu Kyi is to impose multilateral sanctions on the Myanmar military regime, as she is advocating, the Washington Post wrote in a newspaper editorial Saturday.

By treating Aung San Suu Kyi merely as an icon of democracy in Myanmar (Burma), the world can ignore the brutality of her country's dictatorship and continue dealing with the regime, the Post wrote.

Diplomats from around the world have protested the heavy-handed way the military forced an end to her recent

six-day protest, in which she was denied the right to travel and meet with supporters.

"Treating Aung San Suu Kyi as an icon lets Burma's dictators off the hook of negotiating with her as the legitimate political leader that she is. It lets other nations express admiration and concern while ignoring the substantive ways they are keeping her tormentors in power."

"For it is contracts with America's Unocal Corp., France's Total, Singapore's and China's arms merchants and other companies from Europe, Asia and North America that allow the unpopular generals to hold on," said the Post.

"Recognising that fact, the United States at least has banned new investments. The European Union has yet to follow suit, and South East Asian nations continue to advocate engagement."

"Not only is Burma's regime one of the world's most odious, profiting from press-ganged labour and the heroin trade; but, unlike in most such cases, a legitimate, democratically anointed alternative already exists."

In the end "engagement has produced nothing, whereas multilateral sanctions — as advocated by Aung San Suu Kyi herself — could have a real effect," the Post concluded.

## Mother, son suspected of murder indicted for credit card fraud

NEW YORK (AP) — The mother and son under suspicion in the disappearance of a Manhattan millionaire have been indicted for credit card fraud.

Sante and Kenneth Kimes are accused of obtaining a Mastercard in the name of a Florida man and using it several times in June for drinks, dinner and shopping in New York.

Morgensthan stressed that the investigation into the Kimeses' alleged criminal activity — including their possible link to Irene Silverman's disappearance — was still being probed.

The Kimeses became suspects after several of the 82-year-old woman's identification cards and financial documents were found in their car. Court papers made public Friday show that a deed turning over

Mrs. Silverman's four-story townhouse to the Kimeses was forged.

The two were arrested in New York July 5 on an unrelated federal warrant for a bad check charge out of Utah. They are being held without bail.

The Kimeses also are under suspicion in the murder of a Los Angeles man and the disappearance of a Bahamian banker and a San Diego businessman.

# Cambodia's Hun Sen wants to form government fast

PHNOM PENH (R) — Cambodian leader Hun Sen said Saturday he wanted to form a coalition government with his opposition rivals quickly and he was confident a compromise with them could be worked out.

Hun Sen's ruling Cambodian People's Party (CPP) was clearly ahead as the slow count from last Sunday's vote continued, with the opposition FUNCINPEC party of Prince Norodom Ranariddh, ousted by Hun Sen last year, in second place.

Hun Sen has proposed a coalition with FUNCINPEC and the third-placed Sam Rainsy Party but they are insisting that their allegations of CPP election fraud be thoroughly investigated before they discuss such an arrangement.

The two opposition leaders have threatened to boycott the National Assembly to prevent a new government forming unless voting and recounts were held again in certain areas.

A government needs approval from two-thirds of the new 122-seat parliament, virtually assuring a coalition. The CPP, while the biggest party, will be short of a two-thirds majority.

Hun Sen said King Norodom Sihanouk, who diplomats say is in favour of a three-way coalition, was waiting to appoint the new

government before leaving for a medical check-up in China.

"We need a new government quickly in order to give time for our monarch to seek medical treatment," Hun Sen told reporters.

"Any delay in forming the government is a delay for our monarch to go for medical treatment. The king is waiting," Hun Sen said he was confident a deal with his rivals could be worked out. "Compromise can be found," he said.

Hun Sen said he also

wanted a new government formed quickly so Cambodia could regain its U.N. seat. This was left vacant after Hun Sen overthrew Prince Ranariddh as his senior co-premier in a bloody coup last year.

"We have to send a delegation to the United Nations General Assembly, so if we establish the government quickly we will also be able to occupy our seat," he said. Prince Ranariddh travelled to Thailand Friday for rest and was due to return Monday, party officials

said. Hun Sen has said informal talks on a coalition took place Wednesday night but negotiations could not start until Prince Ranariddh and Sam Rainsy accepted the election result.

The opposition leaders have also called for an end to what they said was a campaign of intimidation against their activists, many of whom they said were witnesses to electoral fraud. The opposition and human rights group Amnesty International say

opposition activists have been victims of death threats and widespread intimidation since the election and hit out at the international community for endorsing the election too early.

Hun Sen, whose security forces have been accused of killing about 100 opposition supporters since he overthrew Prince Ranariddh last year, expressed doubts that such a campaign of intimidation was under way but called on members of his party to abide by the law. "Any acts of intimidation are illegal, immoral and unacceptable," he said.

The National Election Committee released results from four constituencies Saturday, showing the CPP a clear winner in Svay Rieng, Kampong Chhnang provinces and the Kep municipality.

FUNCINPEC, which won the most seats in Cambodia's last election in 1993, looks set to win in Kompong Cham, Kandal and Kratie provinces and in Phnom Penh, according to NEC figures.

The Sam Rainsy Party, the former Khmer Rouge stronghold of Pailin.

National Assembly seats will be allocated via a proportional system. The NEC said full, official preliminary results would be out by Aug. 4.

## Prince Ranariddh mulling coalition with Hun Sen

BANGKOK (AFP) — Ousted Cambodian co-premier Prince Norodom Ranariddh is considering forming a coalition with his arch-rival Hun Sen, a close aide, to the deposed co-premier said Saturday.

"He is rethinking things," the aide said, declining to be named.

"We are in the position that we have legitimacy. We are thinking about it."

The prince also held talks here with his military resistance commander Nhek Nun Chhay.

"I talked with Prince Ranariddh last night," the former Phnom Penh general told AFP. "We didn't decide anything."

Nhek Nun Chhay said it remained unsafe for him to return to Phnom Penh, where his forces were rooted by strongman Hun Sen's troops during the prince's ouster last year.

"I can't go there now," he said, adding he would return to the resistance base of O'Smach on Cambodia's northern border

with Thailand.

The military chief, who has since led a small force against Hun Sen's troops in sporadic battles on the border, added he doubted Prince Ranariddh would be able to form a government and the royalist FUNCINPEC party would never accept another coalition with Hun Sen.

"We can't work with Hun Sen," he said, as counting of votes from last Sunday's Cambodian election continued.

Hun Sen's Cambodian People's Party (CPP) appeared poised for victory in the polls but was expected to be forced into a coalition with either FUNCINPEC or the opposition Sam Rainsy Party.

FUNCINPEC woo U.N.-backed 1993 elections but was forced to accept a coalition with the CPP.

Prince Ranariddh arrived here Friday to rest following his election campaign, according to aides. He was due to return to Phnom Penh Monday.

## Russian forces besiege fugitives in remote Arctic

MOSCOW (R) — Police and troops, hampered by thick fog, were hunting for three armed fugitives in one of the remotest areas of Russia's Arctic coast Saturday, a day after 11 jailbreakers fought gun battles with their pursuers.

"The operation goes on," a police spokesman said from the scene at Cape Schmidt, on the bleak north coast of the Chukotka Peninsula, facing Alaska and nine times zones east of Moscow.

Six army conscripts being held for murder and five civilians facing trial for rape and robbery fled their cells Friday, killing a guard and seizing 23 Kalashnikov assault rifles, a machinegun and other weapons and ammunition.

After stealing two army vehicles and raiding a local store for liquor, they were finally run to ground by security forces using helicopters near the settlement of Leningradsky, some 100 km along the coast, where fighting broke out.

Two policemen and two of the fugitives were killed and six others, some of them wounded, were arrested.

The three remaining escapees were still evading capture Saturday but their prospects looked grim.

The nearest settlement of any size, the regional capital Anadyr with a population of under 20,000, is 500 km away and there are few roads.

The wilderness is so forbidding that in the days when the region held gulag labour camps, prisoners were often cut off in as tight a mesh as virtual certain death.

Russian media commented on the growing frequency of such dramas, especially involving demoralised conscripts stationed in the further-flung outposts.

Four of the original jailbreakers were reported to have been arrested in May after shooting dead their officer and trying in vain to escape across the barren tundra.

## Russian PM, Chechen leader meet

NAZRAN, Russia (R) — Russian Prime Minister Sergei Kiriyenko held talks in southern Russia Saturday with the leader of the breakaway region of Chechnya, President Aslan Maskhadov, Russian officials said.

Russian news agencies said the meeting ended after two hours and the two men would brief the media in Nazran, the capital of neighbouring Ingushetia.

Their discussions were expected to cover the future of the region and its demands for economic aid from Moscow as well as ways of curbing instability across the north Caucasus area and of cooperating against kidnapping gangs operating out of Chechnya.

Mr. Kiriyenko, who was instructed to arrange the meeting by President Boris Yeltsin last week, arrived at the out-of-town residence of Ingush President Ruslan Aushev in an armoured motorcade. Mr. Maskhadov was, apparently, already waiting there.

Nazran is 70 km from the Chechen capital Grozny.

Mr. Kiriyenko told Interfax news agency after flying in to Vladikavkaz, capital of yet another region in the ethnic patchwork of the North

Caucasus, that he expected a "normal, constructive conversation" with Mr. Maskhadov, who signed a peace treaty last year after leading victorious rebel forces.

Mr. Kiriyenko admitted earlier this week that Moscow had failed to fulfil its signed obligations towards the rebel region under a peace treaty signed by Mr. Yeltsin and Mr. Maskhadov over a year ago.

Mr. Maskhadov says Moscow has withheld promised reconstruction funds in a deliberate tactic to keep Chechnya unstable after Russian troops pulled out in August 1996 following their bloody but unsuccessful 21-month war against the guerrillas.

Mr. Maskhadov, who is seen in Moscow as a relative moderate, survived a car bomb attack 10 days ago. His forces clashed with radical Islamic paramilitaries on July 15.

He told Interfax in an interview published Saturday that there was no question of his discussing the issue of Chechen sovereignty with Mr. Kiriyenko as Chechnya maintained it was a fully independent state — something Moscow refuses to accept.

Mr. Maskhadov said he was still striving for good relations with Moscow and for a common economic and defence space with Russia but said he was tired of unfulfilled promises and believed some forces in Moscow were deliberately trying to provoke civil war among the million or so Muslim Chechens.

"The people of Chechnya are tired of Russia's numerous promises, which for now are still just promises," he said of the economic aid that was pledged last year. "The main thing is that the next round of talks deals with real issues." He said he would be asking Mr. Kiriyenko when Russia, which is in a severe financial crisis of its own, would make good on those promises to help rebuild the Chechen economy.

He was ready to discuss the issue of crime in the region.

Dozens of people, including Mr. Yeltsin's own special envoy to Chechnya, are being held hostage for ransom by armed gangs. But Mr. Maskhadov, a former Soviet artillery colonel, said the best way to end crime was to the help Chechens restore their economy.

## Tiger attacks visitor at U.S. amusement park

VALLEJO, California (AFP) — A Bengal tiger attacked a visitor as she posed for a photograph with the animal after slipping and startling the big cat, officials at the Marine World amusement park here reported.

Jaunell Waldo, 45, was rushed by helicopter to an area hospital, where she was reported early Saturday in serious but stable condition after suffering scratches and bites to her head and neck.

Friday Mrs. Waldo went to the amusement park and paid \$250 for the privilege of posing with the tiger in its enclosure, part of a special programme for park

supporters.

However she slipped, startling the 159 kilo male feline, said park spokeswoman Stephanie Goodell.

The tiger attacked the woman scratching and biting her until trainers could pull him off.

Roo Whitfield, who has worked at Marine World

with lions and tigers for 23 years, said this is the first such incident.

"In normal situations it's very safe to (pose for photographs) with trained animals and trainers," he said.

However other patrons have been injured by animals at Marine World in the past.

In 1992 a man was thrown from an elephant during a publicity photo. The elephant then stampeded across a crowded public area and crashed through a wooden fence.

Three years after the accident the man received a \$600,000 settlement for his injuries.

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**ROYAL JORDANIAN** الخطوط الملكية الأردنية







# Features

## Cultural sleuths hit back as criminals turn to art

By Thomas Land

**BUDAPEST** — Hungary has established a police task-force in a bid to protect art, antiques and other cultural treasures.

The number of art thefts in Hungary rose from 702 in 1990 to 1,025 last year. "Criminals exploiting the illegal trade in cultural treasures tend to deploy the latest technologies, while the police usually plnd after them using obsolete techniques," says Miklos Moritz, an interior ministry spokesman.

"But this is about to change. With the help of Interpol (the international police organisation) we are to introduce state-of-the-art data-processing techniques that will make possible exchanges between police forces."

The task-force has been set up by the police and the ministries of the interior and culture. The agreement bringing it into existence was signed at the Dezso Laczkó Museum, the site of a 1992 robbery in which several valuable medieval golden plaques and two Roman sculptures were stolen. Most of the pieces were recovered in Austria and Switzerland.

The new five-member unit will coordinate arrangements for safeguarding vulnerable collections and encourage owners and administrators to assemble a database of their possessions.

It will also cooperate with other countries in the recovery of stolen objects and promote a regional strategy to stamp out smuggling.

The team was recently introduced to top crime-busters from around the world at a regional conference organised by Interpol. The aim of the get-together was to work out ways of improving collaboration to end the plundering of museums, churches, private collections and

archaeological sites throughout East and Central Europe.

The meeting was held in Budapest. "The geography of Hungary makes this place the centre of East-West developments — and that fact has not escaped the notice of organised crime," — Interpol Secretary-General Raymond E. Kendall told me.

**"The geography of Hungary makes this place the centre of East-West developments — and that fact has not escaped the notice of organised crime," — Interpol Secretary-General Raymond E. Kendall**

beries in the region has nearly doubled since the beginning of the decade. At the same time, a vigorous, legitimate art auction market has sprung up.

Police say the trade in stolen cultural treasures is a relatively new but increasingly important activity of the Russian mafia. Shortly before the conference, Hungarian police arrested two Russians with eight priceless medieval icons in their car, apparently stolen from a church in Ukraine. Documents found on the suspects contained the names of several well-known Hungarian art

dealers and established a connection with a number of previous robberies.

The database assembled by the task-force will be linked up to Interpol's central register of stolen objects, in Lyons, France, by the end of the year.

The task-force will also concern itself with the return of objects stolen in neighbouring countries and smuggled through Hungary on their way to the West.

Raymond Kendall says that a 1983 case involving the theft of "Old Master" paintings from the Museum of Fine Arts yielded important lessons for the police.

"The case taught us that there is a great deal of prevention work that can be done. In that case, the work of the thieves was made easy by some scaffolding erected outside the window, providing easy access to the room where the paintings were exhibited."

"All over the former Eastern Bloc (countries previously controlled by the Soviet Union) there has been inadequate protection put in place by museums for works of art under their care, and inadequate inventories and descriptions of their treasures maintained by them. Yet good databases are essential for the identification of works if they are stolen."

The Museum of Fine Art paintings were recovered quickly, as were objects stolen in another major theft in Hungary, the 1993 robbery at the Jewish Museum in Budapest.

"We are lucky to recover them, some in Italy and some in Greece," says Kendall. But the overall recovery rate in art thefts is less than 10 per cent.

*The writer is an author and journalist who writes on international affairs.*

— Gemini News

## Holland tames its 'gorillas' Bouncers must get diploma or quit

By Christoph Driessen

**EINDHOVEN**, Netherlands — Swaying his broad shoulders like a sheriff in a Western movie, the brawny young man walks up to a smoking guest on the dance floor of the discotheque.

"Hey, would you mind stubbing out that fag? We don't like this in here. In fact, it's banned," he says as a voice abruptly orders him to end the role play.

"You've failed," says the voice from the background. The 1.90-metre trainee bouncer casts his eyes down like a schoolboy who has been scolded.

He would love nothing better than to walk straight out of the course, but he has to carry on since all bouncers in the Netherlands are required to have a diploma as of the middle of next year.

"You're the host. You are talking to your guests. You can't simply say 'it's banned,'" shouts chief trainer Arjen Appel.

Appel, who runs the training course at a youth centre in the Dutch town of Eindhoven, steps in to make clear to his 15 students what would have been the correct way to handle the situation.

"A very good evening to you sir," he says to the smoking guest. "I am sorry, sir, but smoking on the dance floor is not allowed at our bar. It's very crowded in here, and something

might happen. Thank you for your consideration. Smoking is no problem over there where the tables are. Sorry again for any inconvenience, and have a pleasant evening."

Under the new rules aimed at taming the army of "gorillas", bouncers are only allowed to do their jobs if they can produce the newly established diploma.

Compulsory training was introduced after a number of violent incidents in which bouncers heat up unwelcome nightclub goers so badly that they required hospital treatment.

Under the new rules, initiated by Dutch Justice Minister Winnie Sorgdrager, all bouncers must go on training courses or will have their work permits revoked as of next summer when the new regulations come into effect.

For the estimated 2,000 to 3,000 doormen checking guests at Dutch nightclubs, brothels and casinos the decision means they must go back to the classroom to prepare for the exam.

The test, which comprises a written and a practical part, is anything but easy.

The written test includes questions like "There's a brawl, and a guest knocks out three of another guest's teeth. The doorman sees it and collects the teeth. What must he do next?" The correct answer is: "Place the teeth into a

glass of milk."

Putting the knocked out teeth into a glass of milk boosts the chances that they can be refitted.

For the majority of bouncers on the course the most difficult task during the role play is to keep cool.

"Don't threaten guests, convince them," is the message the trainer bammers home. "That's psychology," he says. "That's the way to get on. It has been proven scientifically."

Some of the course participants roll their eyes. "To be honest, I would never do all this here of my own free will," says the broad-shouldered Frans Princken.

"I've been doing this job for 20 years and never had any problems. Shows that I'm good at it, doesn't it? And this course here costs a lot of time and money — 1,500 guilder (\$730) for six days," he says.

He concedes that some of the tips he gets in the course are useful. "And it's also good to polish up our bad image. After all we have a reputation of being all brawns and no brains."

But a lot, he adds, cannot be learnt. You have to look a bit like Arnold Schwarzenegger or Jean-Claude van Damme to be able to work as a bouncer or else even the best training is a waste of money.

— Deutsche Presse Agentur

## Turkey and Georgia: A partnership against all odds?

By Manos Karagiannis

**TURKEY FORMALLY** recognised Georgia's independence in November 1991 but established diplomatic relations only in May 1992, after the United States had done so and after Eduard Shevardnadze returned to head the country. In late 1992 President Suleiman Demirel made a visit to Tbilisi, where he and Shevardnadze signed a treaty of friendship and cooperation. Turkey's aspirations in Central Asia and Azerbaijan, however, combined with the internal instability in Georgia, reduced Georgia's relevance in Turkish foreign policy for most of 1992-1993.

By late 1993 the picture had altered. Georgia lost control of Abkhazia and was forced to enter the CIS, and a resurgent Russia was making an aggressive bid for dominance in Transcaucasia. Closer ties between Georgia and Turkey therefore became advantageous to both parties. In January 1994 Shevardnadze made an official visit to Ankara during which he and Demirel signed a declaration affirming shared commitment to promoting peace, stability and democracy in Transcaucasia, plus a package of trade and economic agreements.

But while both Georgian and Turkish leaders affirmed an optimism that they could contribute to stabilisation in Transcaucasia, Georgia's limited freedom of manoeuvre was highlighted by the signing in February 1994 of a Russian-Georgian friendship and cooperation treaty and several other agreements, including one giving Russia the right to maintain military bases in Georgia for a period of 25 years. In a Turkish press interview several months later, Shevardnadze argued that Georgia "had no alternative" and that closer ties with Russia did not mean that Georgia was pushing Turkey aside.

**"Mutual need"**

Tbilisi views Turkey as a valuable ally in the region, aiding Georgia's efforts to maintain its independence by acting as a counterbalance to neo-imperialist Russian policy in Transcaucasia and providing the country with an alternative source of trade and investment. Indeed, Turkey dominates Georgia's economic sphere, having overtaken Russia as its largest trading partner. In addition, Turkey's importance to Georgia as a transport link with Europe has been underscored by an agreement whereby Turkey will build a 150-kilometre rail-

way from northwestern Turkey to Marabda in southern Georgia.

From the Turkish perspective, a democratic and stable Georgia could be a strategic partner in one of the world's most disorderly areas, allowing Ankara to focus its attention on other, less friendly, neighbouring countries, such as Iran and Armenia. Furthermore, Georgia's strategic location, sharing borders with Armenia, Russia and, most importantly, Azerbaijan has highlighted the importance of developing Georgia's key role in establishing a transport corridor linking Turkey with Central Asia.

Moreover, during a visit to Georgia in March 1998, Turkish Prime Minister Yilmaz identified Georgia as a country with which Turkey has "joint interests and with which Turkey is willing to strengthen cooperation in every field, being an independent and sovereign country which favours ensuring peace and stability in the Caucasus." On the other hand, when making a statement to a Georgian newspaper, President Shevardnadze stressed that "Turkey has always been close to Georgia in the latter's difficult days." During the period shortly after independence, when Georgia's very survival was at stake, Turkey extended credits and humanitarian assistance as well as expressions of commitment to the territorial integrity of its neighbour.

**Ethnic inconvenience**

Despite the presence in Turkey of a large émigré community of Abkhaz and other Caucasian peoples that support the Abkhaz leadership in its campaign to achieve independence, the Turkish government has consistently expressed its support for Georgia's territorial integrity. That stance is hardly surprising in the light of Ankara's rejection of territorial autonomy for its Kurdish minority.

Tbilisi is desperate to reduce Russia's influence in its domestic affairs, particularly concerning the dispute with Abkhazia. Ankara has offered its services as a mediator in the Georgian-Abkhazian dispute. Its desire to curtail Russian influence in Georgia was evident from its offer in 1994 to send troops to Georgia as part of a U.N. peacekeeping force intended to monitor the ceasefire between the Georgian government and Abkhaz separatists.

Ethnic strife within Georgia itself, however, could have a negative effect on its relations with Turkey. The Muslim Ajars, who

have their own autonomous republic on the Georgian-Turkish border, look in part to Turkey for help in their demands for greater autonomy, especially as Ajars live on the Turkish side as well. Another source of potential tension is the repatriation of the Meskhetian Turks who were deported en masse by Stalin in 1944 to Central Asia. Unlike most other peoples subjected to such a fate, only a few hundred have managed to return to their former homeland, although the group numbers around 100,000. And when home, they have been met with hostility and treated as interlopers.

Georgia's concern over a Muslim threat could, in the long-term, raise tensions with Ankara. Turkey invaded Georgia during the civil war in Russia after the revolution and it is likely that any nationalist Georgian government would regard Turkey as a potential threat, particularly if it sought to develop closer ties with Georgian Muslims. However, Turkey will probably avoid involvement in these ethnic conflicts since there is little public interest in the fate of these Muslim minorities and Ankara is keen to maintain good relations with Tbilisi. Similarly, the present Georgian government considers its bilateral relations with Ankara too important to be spoiled by such minority questions.

**Russia and the question of pipelines**

The strength of the Georgian-Turkish partnership is nowhere more evident than in the field of energy transportation. Both countries attach great importance to pipelines to transport oil and natural gas from third countries across their territories. Ankara initially failed to recognise the significance of a special relationship with Tbilisi until it became clear, in 1994, that the only available export route for Azerbaijani oil was through Georgia. U.S. policy towards Iran, and the continuing conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan over Karabakh, have made the construction of a major oil pipeline across Iran or Armenia almost impossible. Hence Georgia appears to be the only reliable partner in the area that could provide Turkey with access to the oil-rich Caspian region. Georgia sees a pipeline as a means to foster independence and as a major source of income.

Ankara's success in improving relations with Georgia, however, may prove to be short-lived. Although Turkey has been able to

persuade Shevardnadze to support the Baku-Ceyhan route for the long-term transportation of Azerbaijani oil, Russian political and military influence in Georgia's domestic affairs may eventually undermine Georgia's cooperation with Turkey.

Russia wants the oil to be transported through its territory. There are several internal forces which Moscow could use as levers to bring pressure on Tbilisi to reduce its support for the proposed Baku-Ceyhan pipeline. Alternatively, a Russian-brokered settlement of the Abkhaz conflict — although unlikely in the immediate future — would increase Georgia's dependence on Moscow and might, ultimately, force Tbilisi to return the "favour" by renouncing its support for the Baku-Ceyhan pipeline. Georgia's ability to respond in kind to Turkey's overtures is therefore limited, and Ankara cannot count on Georgia's unequivocal cooperation to make the proposed pipeline a reality.

Another potential threat to Turkey's pipeline plans is Moscow's apparent willingness to support the use of force to remove undesirable leaders in Transcaucasia, as was clearly demonstrated by the Russian-engineered attempts on the life of President Shevardnadze in August 1995 and February 1998. Moscow's support for civil strife in Georgia is also connected to its goal of controlling the flow of oil in the region. Indeed Moscow is likely to step up its efforts to destabilise Georgia before a final decision on the long-term transportation of Azerbaijani oil is taken later this year in order to persuade foreign oil companies that the northern route through Russian territory is the only secure one. Consequently, Turkey's ability to promote its proposed pipeline project will, to a great extent, depend on the nature of Russia's involvement in Georgian affairs.

On the other hand, given that Georgia — because of its location — is sure to be an important transit route for Caspian hydrocarbons, Turkey will make every effort in the near future to expand its economic and political influence there.

*The writer is a Ph.D student at the University of Hull's Department of Politics and Asian Studies. He is writing his thesis on Caspian pipelines.*

— Middle East International

## Ancient wisdom brings mountain farms back to life

*New technology is not always the best way to solve a problem. Sometimes the past can hold vital clues to the right solution, as a rural community in Peru is discovering. Villagers are reaping the rewards, as scientists help them to apply green methods from another age.*

By Dan Palmer

**CAMBRIDGE**, England — Peruvian hill farmers are beginning to benefit from a project that is reviving the agricultural know-how of their ancestors.

The ancient — and environmentally friendly — farming technology of the Incas once produced abundant crops that helped to build and feed one of the world's major civilisations.

Their agricultural achievements fell apart as the Inca empire was destroyed amid bloodshed and disease after the arrival of the Spanish conquistadors in the 16 century.

However, archaeologists have recently made exciting discoveries, and a scheme to reapply the old methods in the hills around Cusichaca, in the Peruvian Andes, is proving a big success that may soon be copied elsewhere. Villagers who have partnered a British team in the project have grown a surplus of maize, potatoes, beans and cabbages which they are now able to sell.

British archaeologist Ann Kendall, who has studied ancient agricultural techniques in the

region for more than 20 years, helped launch a charitable organisation, the Cusichaca Trust, with the aim of using old know-how to assist modern-day farmers.

The trust's work, together with additional research by scientists from Britain's Cambridge University, has shown that the Inca farmers managed the fragile Andean ecosystem far better than their successors.

**... good environmental practices included stone terraces which the Incas constructed on steep slopes to grow and irrigate their crops.**

"We believe that the survival of the Inca civilisation was because of good environmental practices," says Alex Chepstow-Lusty, a post-doctoral student with the department of plant sciences at Cambridge.

These good environmental practices included stone terraces which the Incas constructed on steep slopes to grow and irrigate their crops. They have been discovered at a number of sites.

Each terrace had a stone base, covered with a layer of gravel and a metre of soil on top. Along the inner edge of each ledge, a narrow canal was built out of clay and stone to hold water and fish.

Kendall, the Cusichaca Trust's director, explained that such a method does not require fertilis-

ers because the sediment in the canals is rich in nitrogen from fish droppings.

Her team has been working for some years to apply their research practically. A terrace system in Cusichaca took three years to restore. Work included the rebuilding of parts of the ancient canals.

But it was worth the effort. After the restoration, 45 hectares

enrich degraded earth.

The Cambridge team found that before the trees were planted in large numbers, vegetation in the area was scarce. This was shown by a lack of pollen in the sediment samples. But after the trees were widely planted, vegetation flourished.

When the Spanish settlers arrived, many of these trees were chopped down for timber and firewood, and much of the Incas' stable and fertile farmland disappeared with them.

The Peruvian government has now taken an interest in the project and hopes to re-introduce the aliso to more hills and to replicate the Cusichaca success elsewhere.

Chepstow-Lusty says the government is keen to use the trees to help counter widespread deforestation. Wood-clearing to make way for more arable farmland threatens to destroy the remaining Peruvian forests within only a few years.

The Cambridge team is hoping that Peruvian students can visit their department to work with them on reviving the old technology.

*The writer is a Canadian journalist working with Gemini News Service in London on a fellowship arrangement with the School of Journalism and Communications at the University of Regina.*

— Gemini News



# Growth in U.S. slows

Mr. Saidi said the existing bilateral agreements and protocols between Lebanon

The pattern of trade reflects the dominance of petrole-

increased specialisation as this would generate economies of scale in the production of goods and

budget deficits and implementing sound fiscal policies," he added.

Second quarter growth slide was largely caused

CH Franc	0.0701	1
JP Yen	0.0070	1
CA Dollar	0.6637	1
IT Lira	0.0006	1

0.411	0.4276	1.0387	-	1.0
0.916	0.4225	1.0566	1.06	
1.134	0.3491	0.0848	1226.38	0.8

74	12.24	139.91	4.1813
	1270.80	1.4551	4.3285
32	-	11.42	3.3974

day.  
"Consumer spending is not likely to undergo a pronounced recovery, taking into account the deterioration in confidence.

"I promise to give no income and corporate tax cuts worth more than six

He has every reason to be depressed as the country's June unemployment rate hit

"I myself foresee a minor minus," Tatchi Sakaya told a news conference late Fri-

only and disagreed with the conventional view that the economy would pick up later in the year.

new homes hitting a record annual pace of 935,000 units in June.

Paris	CAC 40
Frankfurt	DAX

4202.88	63.89	1.5
5897.05	43.42	0.7

4202.88	4152.61	4139.19
5897.29	5837.51	5853.63

Main Equity Indices							
Bourse	Index	Value	Chng	% Chng	High	Low	Pr Cls
NewYork	DOW JONES	8521.39	6.43	0.07	8521.39	8513.41	8514.96
NewYork	S&P 500	1126.92	1.71	0.16	1126.92	1125.21	1125.21
London	FT-SE 100	5693.6	49.4	0.85	5693.6	5642.3	5644.1
Tokyo	NIKKEI 225	18201.6	43.51	0.27	18311.6	18190.7	18195.1
Paris	CAC 40	4202.65	63.89	1.54	4202.65	4182.61	4183.19
Frankfurt	DAX	5897.05	43.42	0.74	5897.29	5832.61	5833.49

# THE BETTER HALF.

By Glasbergen

GLASBERGEN

"You've always been manipulative, but you used to be more subtle."

## JUMBLE

Unscramble these four jumbles: one letter to each square. To form four ordinary words.

LEVAT

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CAINP

HILERS

GROAFE

## THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold and Mike Argente

WHAT THEY CONSIDERED HIS PICTURE OF A DOG RETRIEVING A STICK.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon

Print answer here:

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's

Jumbles

USURY

TO

POISE

GAINED

BRACED



## Daily Beat

A review of news from the Arabic Press

## Egypt's Cairo Bank supports Jordan's Cairo Amman Bank with \$15m credit

CAIRO AMMAN Bank (CAB) Board Chairman Khalil Talhouni told the general assembly Thursday that an agreement was signed recently with the Cairo Bank in Egypt to consolidate the capital of the Jordanian Bank and help expand its operations in line with the CBJ (Central Bank of Jordan) requirements. Under the agreement, the Cairo Bank in Egypt will extend \$15 million credit to CAB which will repay the amount over a 7-year period.

Mr. Talhouni said CAB was negotiating with the International Finance Corporation (IFC) to secure a loan but when the corporation tried to shift the credit into an equity participation, the Cairo Bank took the initiative and presented a better offer.

Jordan's Cairo Amman Bank posted JD7.5 million net profit last year compared to JD7.3 million recorded at the end of 1996. After tax and other provisions, the bank's net profit amounted to JD3.9 million in 1997, nearly JD0.2 million higher than the JD3.7 million generated in 1996. The chairman indicated that the net income from interest and commission rose by 12.6 per cent from JD25.2 million in 1996 to JD28.4 million in 1997.

According to the annual report, the bank's net profit available for distribution at the end of last year amounted to JD7.1 million compared to JD6.8 million in 1996. The amount comprised JD753,200 obligatory reserve, JD1.5 million voluntary reserve, JD2.4 million reserve for branching outside, JD1.7 million retained earnings and JD750,000 in dividends payable to shareholders.

The report showed total assets at JD788.5 million, JD87.9 million or 12.6 per cent higher than the JD700.5 million total at the end of 1996. Shareholders' equity was also

higher from JD25.1 million to JD28.2 million at the end of last year.

Noting that in implementation of the generally accepted international accounting standards and the requirements of the CBJ, Mr. Talhouni said the bank merged its accounts with those of its affiliated companies for the first time. He added that deposits of clients rose by 16 per cent to reach JD647 million. Deposits of banks, financial institutions and cash deposits amounted to around JD48.6 million.

The CAB increased its deposits at the Central Bank by JD30 million to become JD228.5 million. Of this amount JD142 million were in the form of certificates of deposit which means a 53 per cent liquidity ratio considered as good by international standards.

Credit facilities were up from JD259.6 million in 1996 to around JD280 million in 1997.

The chairman said the bank made a qualitative shift in the components of credit as the outstanding balance of advances in current accounts dropped from JD162 million to JD146 million. The increase showed in the loans category which climbed from JD104 million to JD146 million. Bills discounted were lower from JD18 million to JD13 million. The bank boosted its reserves for doubtful assets from JD16.8 million to JD19.2 million and also increased fixed assets to JD1.4 million as a result of modernising its branches and offices in Jordan and Palestine.

Mr. Talhouni concluded by saying that the bank's net profit before various provisions during the first half of 1998 amounted to JD4.5 million, less than the amount posted during the first half of 1997 (Al Ra'i + Al Arab Al Yawm).

By Tareq Ayyoub  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Bahrain-based Arab Banking Corporation (ABC) Saturday bought the Housing Bank's equity in the ABC's branch in the Kingdom, worth JD11.7 million, a stock market source said.

Daoud Kishta, director of the International Financial Centre which brokered the deal, said that the contract involved the Housing Bank's 26 per cent share of the bank's JD20 million capital.

Mr. Kishta said that following the deal, which involved 5,200,000 shares sold at the rate of

JD2.250, the ABC's head office would maintain 84 per cent of the bank's equity in the Kingdom.

Prior to the deal, the equity of ABC's headquarters in Bahrain in the Jordanian branch, which was inaugurated in Amman in 1990, amounted to 60 per cent of the total capital.

"The deal came following the government's decision to increase the share of foreign equity in the capital of some economic establishments, especially the banking sector," Mr. Kishta told the Jordan Times.

He indicated that the Housing Bank's profits from the deal amounted to JD6 million.

"This step is an evidence that the stability in the national currency and the investment environment are still attracting investors," Mr. Kishta said.

Last year, the government lifted the ceiling of foreign shareholding in the banking sector, opening the way for foreigners to own up to 100 per cent of the capital.

Mr. Kishta noted that Saturday's contract was the "largest since the establishment of the stock market" in the early eighties.

ABC (Jordan) Director General Jawad Hadid, declined to comment on the deal, but was quoted as saying in a written

statement that the contract enhances the ABC confidence in the Jordanian economy.

"The deal is an enhancement to the bank's investment in the Kingdom which is part of an overall investments in the Arab World," Mr. Hadid was quoted as saying in the written statement.

The ABC, founded by Arab businessmen from Kuwait, Libya, United Arab Emirates and several Saudi investors, maintains branches in 35 countries.

The bank's capital amounts to \$1,800 million while its assets amount to \$24 billion, making it one of the

largest Arab financial institutions.

The contract enhanced the Saturday's turnover at the Amman Financial Market, which recorded a weak trading.

The AFM's daily bulletin showed JD12.1 million in total turnover in the organised market, mostly on the ABC's shares.

Apart of the deal, investors showed weak enthusiasm in the stock market, where the turnover in the industrial, services and insurance sectors failed to exceed JD277.136, the daily bulletin noted.

## Two major South Korean banks merge

SEOUL (AFP) — South Korea's Hanil Bank and Commercial Bank of Korea announced Friday they would merge to create the country's largest bank, ushering in a new era of consolidation in the ailing sector.

The merger will lead to the emergence of a "super bank" with combined assets of 102 trillion won (\$82 billion).

It is seen as a likely spark for a series of tie-ups among South Korean banks, under pressure from the government to put their houses in order as the country battles to emerge from a severe financial crisis.

"We have decided to merge the two banks to create a leading bank capable of competing with international rivals and to help overcome the country's economic crisis," Hanil Bank Governor Lee Kwan-Woo said. Sources said it would be a 50-50 deal, with each holding an equal stake in the new bank, to be temporarily called the Commercial Hanil Bank.

The main source of concern for the two banks in completing the merger is their combined non-performing loans, which stood at 13 trillion won (\$10.4 billion) at the end of March.

"The main point of the merger is not the merger itself, but the size of the government's support for the write-offs of the bad loans of the merged bank," L.G. Securities senior analyst Huh Yeon said.

Bank officials said the two banks wanted the government to extend financial support worth about up to eight trillion won to the merged entity for writing off bad loans and recapitalising.

## Kuwait may postpone oil infrastructure projects

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait might postpone some oil infrastructure projects due to lack of financing, the country's oil minister has said.

"We do have plans and thoughts on holding projects, some of which may be postponed until next year and others until following years in light of the condition of the state budget," Oil Minister Sheikh Saud Nasser Al Sabah told Al Qabas daily in an interview.

Kuwait had planned to raise its production capacity by one million barrels per day (bpd) early in the next century from a current 2.4 million bpd.

A U.S. embassy report said the plan could cost \$13 billion. "These projects are not essential... and the fate of the country's economy does not depend on them," Sheikh Saud added.

Sheikh Saud said Kuwait did not require large amounts of money to improve the infrastructure of its oil facilities since they had been repaired and modernised after the 1991 Gulf war, Al Qabas reported.

## HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY, AUGUST 2, 1998

By Linda C. Black, Tribune Media Services, Inc.

**ARIES:** (March 21 to April 19) This is going to be absolutely marvellous day for you, and the beginning of three superb days of fun, games and sports activities. Everyone will be in fabulous moods, with you right in the middle of the festivities. In fact, you might be causing a lot of this to happen. If you aren't, get busy.

**TAURUS:** (April 20 to May 20) Somebody who has resisted paying you what he owes could have a change of heart. Or your process server could show up with the sheriff and take away his television set, which is almost the same thing. At any rate, this condition is in effect today, so think of a way to put it to good use.

**GEMINI:** (May 21 to June 21) People will be in happier moods today and they might even think what happened yesterday was funny. Don't laugh at them, though. You could get into a tiff over something just as silly or you could leapfrog over the upset. If somebody says something grossly insensitive, take it as a joke.

**CANCER:** (June 22 to July 21) Money is coming in today. It could be in the form of a bonus, a gift or saved money. You don't have to be told to check garage sales; you've done that already and probably saved a bundle. No need to tell everybody how you did it. Let them wonder.

**LEO:** (July 22 to August 21) This is a much better day for you. All the hassles of yesterday will seem insignificant as your sense of humour returns. You probably have a whole bunch of new stories to tell from yesterday's adventures. If some of them aren't funny yet, don't worry. Just hold on to them a little while longer and they will be.

**VIRGO:** (August 22 to September 22) This is a good day to clean house. If you can do it before company arrives. You're liable to have a house full of people before you know it and they're the wild, rambunctious type, too. Maybe you can talk them into doing some yard work — have a weed-pulling competition or something.

**LIBRA:** (September 23 to October 22) Today will be a lot more fun for you and everybody else. You'll learn more quickly, especially if you work with a group. You're smart anyway, but today you're really clicking. Don't hold back. Contribute your perspective, your insights and your unique point of view. Your contribution to the conversation will be a valuable one.

**SCORPIO:** (October 23 to November 21) Be careful with your money; you'll be tempted to toss it around. You can't afford to do that, so don't hang around with someone who can. You know how you hate to be outdone and if you get into a competition with a big spender, you could become the big loser.

**SAGITTARIUS:** (November 22 to December 21) Today will be a much easier day for you and just about everyone else. There's more humour to go around, for one thing. If others still aren't laughing, kid them a bit. You can probably help them see the silliness in what they've been up to without hurting their feelings.

**CAPRICORN:** (December 22 to January 20) It's time to clean your place. For instance, how long has it been since you could get into your attic? At any rate, it's a good day to hunt for treasures, and cleaning the basement, attic or garage is an excellent way to do that.

**AQUARIUS:** (January 21 to February 19) This is a good day to visit with friends, especially old friends you haven't seen in a long-time. That will be a theme while Pluto is retrograde in Sagittarius. Retrograde means going back. Pluto means surprises and Sagittarius, for you, means friends. You could learn all sorts of interesting things during this phase.

**PISCES:** (February 20 to March 20) Conditions have changed just slightly. People will be enthusiastic, bouncy and all-around rambunctious. This could be fun, too, but it's a very different mood than yesterday. Go ahead and participate. It'll keep you from getting run over by the boisterous mob. And have a great time while you're at it!

Birthstone of August: Peridot — Golden Quartz

## Arab Banking Corporation raises equity in Jordan to 80 per cent

By Tareq Ayyoub  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Bahrain-based Arab Banking Corporation (ABC) Saturday bought the Housing Bank's equity in the ABC's branch in the Kingdom, worth JD11.7 million, a stock market source said.

Daoud Kishta, director of the International Financial Centre which brokered the deal, said that the contract involved the Housing Bank's 26 per cent share of the bank's JD20 million capital.

Mr. Kishta said that following the deal, which involved 5,200,000 shares sold at the rate of

JD2.250, the ABC's head office would maintain 84 per cent of the bank's equity in the Kingdom.

Prior to the deal, the equity of ABC's headquarters in Bahrain in the Jordanian branch, which was inaugurated in Amman in 1990, amounted to 60 per cent of the total capital.

"The deal came following the government's decision to increase the share of foreign equity in the capital of some economic establishments, especially the banking sector," Mr. Kishta told the Jordan Times.

He indicated that the Housing Bank's profits from the deal amounted to JD6 million.

"This step is an evidence that the stability in the national currency and the investment environment are still attracting investors," Mr. Kishta said.

Last year, the government lifted the ceiling of foreign shareholding in the banking sector, opening the way for foreigners to own up to 100 per cent of the capital.

Mr. Kishta noted that Saturday's contract was the "largest since the establishment of the stock market" in the early eighties.

ABC (Jordan) Director General Jawad Hadid, declined to comment on the deal, but was quoted as saying in a written

statement that the contract enhances the ABC confidence in the Jordanian economy.

"The deal is an enhancement to the bank's investment in the Kingdom which is part of an overall investments in the Arab World," Mr. Hadid was quoted as saying in the written statement.

The ABC, founded by Arab businessmen from Kuwait, Libya, United Arab Emirates and several Saudi investors, maintains branches in 35 countries.

The bank's capital amounts to \$1,800 million while its assets amount to \$24 billion, making it one of the

largest Arab financial institutions.

The contract enhanced the Saturday's turnover at the Amman Financial Market, which recorded a weak trading.

The AFM's daily bulletin showed JD12.1 million in total turnover in the organised market, mostly on the ABC's shares.

Apart of the deal, investors showed weak enthusiasm in the stock market, where the turnover in the industrial, services and insurance sectors failed to exceed JD277.136, the daily bulletin noted.

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET											
HOUSING BANK CENTER AMMAN - SHARAFI											
SHARE PRICE: 607171 / 607179											
ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR SATURDAY 01/08/1998											
PAST 12 MONTHS HIGH	COMPANY'S NAME	P/E	DIV.	NO. OF TRANS.	NO. OF SHARES	VALUE TRADED JD	OPEN PRICE	CLOSE PRICE	CHANGE		
* 355,500	1.000	17.9	9.21	16	440	96505	219.50	219.00	-.50		
2,100	1.100	13.4	4.24	6	1689	2780	1.64	1.65	+.01		
3,230	1.100	8	0.00	14	2925	2973	1.13	1.14	+.01		
2,980	1.100	11.0	6.60	3	500	785	1.57	1.57	-		
6,510	2.100	19.8	3.21	27	13250	41673	3.13	3.12	-.01		
3,450	1.790	9	0.00	2	167	185	1.85	1.85	-		
870	1.590	9	0.00	12	37600	22705	1.62	1.60	-.02		
4,000	1.690	17.6	0.00	11	2167	3748	1.73	1.72	-.01		
4,460	2.100	23.6	0.00	1	5200000	11700000	2.25	2.25	-		
BANK SECTOR TOTALS INDEX: 290.81 %CHG: -0.21 93 5258361 11871335											
2,770	1.100	7.6	9.23	1	250	678	2.69	2.71	+.02		
INSURANCE SECTOR TOTALS INDEX: 129.22 %CHG: +0.09 1 250 678											
2,240	1.470	10.0	5.36	20	10878	17052	1.53	1.54	+.01		
4,030	1.380	16.1	3.85	4	1221	3174	2.65	2.60	-.05		
1,120	1.800	15.3	0.00	2	373	291	1.81	1.78	-.03		
9,600	5.100	8.7	7.02	1	100	570	5.70	5.70	-		
4,500	4.870	9.7	2.04	2	1100	2156	1.97	1.96	-.01		
1,070	1.890	21.0	0.00	5	1850	1683	1.90	1.91	+.01		
1,830	1.300	5.8	8.46	7	2500	3270	1.33	1.30	-.03		
SERVICE SECTOR TOTALS INDEX: 111.10 %CHG: -0.13 41 18022 28195											
1,160	1.960	9	0.00	1	650	715	1.10	1.10	-		
4,000	1.850	11.0	5.95	19	9201	16978	1.86	1.85	-.01		
4,110	4.800	18.5	0.00	1	100	175	1.83	1.75	-.08		
6,500	4.900	23.6	4.17	8	9800	47040	4.90	4.80	-.10		
11,250	9.870	10.4	8.27	2	26	279	10.73	10.75	+.02		
1,570	1.010	11.1	7.14	4	673	572	1.01	1.00	-.01		
2,740	2.400	7.1	2.90	25	8210	21255	2.97	2.97	0.00		
6,100	1.550	6.5	6.67	1	100	150	1.55	1.50	-.05		
1,440	1.020	9.2	9.01	1	150	167	1.11	1.11	-		
8,540	5.300	7.9	7.05	3	850	6034	7.06	7.09	+.03		
6,350	4.700	6.3	6.73	15	7100	36964	5.24	5.20	-.04		
2,980	1.800	13.7	13.51	1	500	925	1.81	1.85	+.04		
1,100	1.400	14.5	0.00	2	3750	1613	.43	.43	-		
1,100	1.670	24.7	0.00	3	1650	1337	.77	.81	+.04		
1,100	1.850	13.8	4.10	6	1500	42	.44	.42	-.02		
590	1.370	9	0.00	9	15950	6223	.39	.40	+.01		
590	1.500	9	0.00	1	150	71	.50	.47	-.03		
2,380	1.750	37.5	0.00	1	1000	800	.80	.80	-		
1,470	1.150	13.8	4.10	6	1550	1934	1.25	1.25	-		
750	1.390	9	0.00	1	100	39	.39	.39	-		
2,300	1.740	12.0	8.00	9	2849	2143	.75	.75	-		
1,650	1.650	8.6	8.20	5	1550	2415	.54	.55	+.01		
1,600	1.200	8.6	8.20	5	1550	1659	1.22	1.22	-		
1,080	1.750	10.6	13.33	9	6500	4875	.75	.75	-		
1,510	1.120	41.2	0.00	3	6659	7665	2.21	2.17	-.04		
3,210	1.000	7.0	0.00	1	450	450	1.00	1.00	-		
890	1.660	9.5	0.24	2	100500	85425	.85	.85	-		
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR TOTALS INDEX: 87.06 %CHG: -1.38 143 184505 248264											
GRAND TOTAL INDEX: 179.28 %CHG: -0.49 278 5461138 12148471											
DUNELLED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR SATURDAY 01/08/1998											
N 1,050	1.980	EXPORE & FIN. SVCS. 75%	16.7	0.00	1	300	195	.89	.90	+.01	
500	340	JOR. TRADE FAC.	9	0.00	3	1500	658	.44	.44	-	
800	210	UNION INV.	9	0.00	3	1400	710	.51	.51	-	
620	180	ARAB INV. INVEST.	9	0.00	4	1400	414	.29	.30	+.01	
N 2,220	1.030	CELESTEV INV. GROUP	9	0.00	8	17000	20270	1.20	1.20	-	
1,000	0.950	ARAB JOR. INVEST. CO.	16.2	5.26	1	250	238	1.00	.95	-.05	
500	130	ARAB FOOD & RES.	4	0.00	1	2150	1071	.33	.33	0.00	
240	240	ARAB INVE. INV. FID.	26.8	0.00	10	25600	8194	.24	.25	+.01	
560	350	NATL. MULTI. INC. MARICO	10	0.00	9	10000	3600	.36	.36	-	
690	580	NICOSTAR PHARM. 90%	5	0.00	8	7500	3975	.63	.63	-	
1,710	950	UNION INVESTORS 87.5%	10.5	0.00	1	1500	750	1.67	1.65	-.02	
350	220	INDS. INVS.	10	0.00	1	1000	230	.22	.23	+.01	
N 950	550	ADVANCED PHARM. IND.	9	0.00	1	750	443	.59	.59	-	
770	560	INT. ALUMINUM	32.7	0.00	23	12269	7412	.56	.56	0.00	
810	700	NUTRITION	8	0.00	8	6563	83	.83	.83	-	
N 1,400	1.720	AL-KHAYAL PRINTING CO	11.0	10.52	9	7050	5076	.72	.72	-	
GRAND TOTAL 97 121251 67200											
* New 12 months low											
* Stock id. listed during the past 12 months											
* Listed during the past 12 months											
* P/E ratio is 100 or more											
* Negative P/E											
* Earning is zero or N/A for the most recent year											



## Williams, Graf, Davenport advance

How you play one unit is not dependent on the others you have in others. An example first reported late Lawrence Reese.

South wisely decided a band would play better in contract than three or four clubs is actually the

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## Hakkinen on pole as Schumacher places 9th

HOCKENHEIM (AFP) — World championship leader Mika Hakkinen and his teammate David Coulthard set the fastest qualifying times Saturday to grab the front row of the grid for the German Grand Prix.

"I came to Hockenheim to win," Hakkinen said confidently. "That is the target."

Hakkinen's title challenger and German national hero Michael Schumacher in a Ferrari only set ninth best time after a nightmare weekend. "Of course I am disappointed," Schumacher said. "It is definitely the wrong time and the wrong place to have my worst qualifying of the season."

As a master rain driver, the threat of rain Sunday was Schumacher's best hope for a top finish, and heavy rain fell here only a hour after qualifying.

Hakkinen admitted the 350 kph speeds down the famous Hockenheim straight made it "a dangerous circuit in the rain." But, he added, "we are competitive in the wet and we perform in the wet."

It was Hakkinen's seventh pole of the season and the seventh time the McLaren Mercedes "Silver Arrows" had taken the front row of the grid. Jürgen Hubbert, Mercedes board member for passenger cars and in overall charge of racing, watched the achievement from the pit wall.

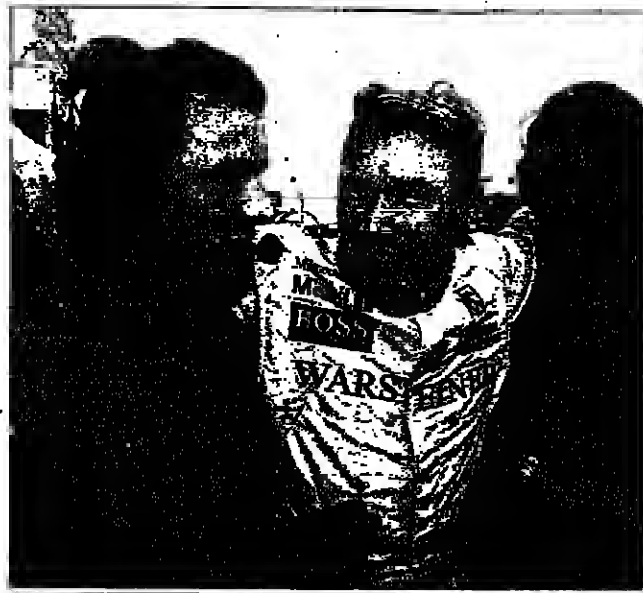
Coulthard was "a little bit disappointed" that a mechanical problem stopped him fighting for pole in his final runs, having to switch to Hakkinen's spare car.

Coulthard said he was "relaxed for the race. We have a good race car. I just have to get a good start and then see what the strategy is."

He admitted, though, that if he was behind Hakkinen it would be hard for him to pass.

Reigning champion Jacques Villeneuve in a Williams Mecachrome in third place equalled his season best qualifying from the British race.

"At Silverstone we were happy to be third," he said.



World championships leader Mika Hakkinen (C) of Finland is hugged by his technicians after taking the pole position at the German Formula One Grand Prix in Hockenheim August 1. The race will be held on Sunday August 2 (Reuters photo)

"Here I am almost disappointed, because we were able to fight for the pole."

Schumacher's younger brother Ralf had a season best with the other second row position in his Jordan Mugen Honda, ahead of teammate and former champion Damon Hill.

Ferrari number two Eddie Irvine completed the top six.

Schumacher lost all Friday testing a new long wheelbase car that was then parked as being inferior to his standard car.

In Saturday's practice he slid off the track on his first practice lap, losing half the morning session before being able to go out again.

Then after only six laps, he was stopped on the track with engine problems. Effectively he had no time to set up his car in qualifying trim, and it showed in the qualifying hour.

But he said that even without his problems, Irvine's time showed that "our performance level was not good enough."

"We have to work very hard for tomorrow to improve the car."

"It is possible to overtake here, it is a long race and anything can happen," Schumacher said.

Ferrari team chief Jean Todt said Schumacher had failed to improve his early time because of traffic, but television also showed him

making a mistake and locking a front brake on one run.

Hakkinen set the first serious pole time after 16 minutes of the session, topped by Coulthard three minutes later.

Villeneuve, Coulthard and Hakkinen then set new pole times within seconds of each other, the Finn coming out on top after 35 minutes, improving his time with nine minutes to go, then nailing his flag definitively to the pole in the final second of the hour.

His pole time was the first this year to be quicker than 1997 times, following the changes to car and tyre regulations.

Hakkinen attributed it to the increased speed of the narrower cars on the long Hockenheim straights, more power from Mercedes, and harder tyres giving less friction.

After a heavy morning accident in which his head hit the cockpit protection heavily under a 30G load, the Tyrrell team withdrew Brazilian Ricardo Rosset from qualifying.

And although the team tried to get permission for him to start, on medical advice he will not race.

The race is due to start at 1400 (1200 local) and cover 45 laps of the long track.

## Woman sues Barkley for \$3m

HOUSTON (AP) — A woman filed a \$3 million lawsuit against Charles Barkley on Friday, accusing him of throwing her against a restaurant wall last year after she complained he was smoking in a nonsmoking area.

Anna Adams said she had also complained that the Houston Rockets basketball star was taking chairs from the table she was sitting at with her husband and guests at Regine's restaurant in Houston in April 1997.

Adams claims that Barkley grabbed her and threw her against a wall when she attempted to leave, causing severe bruising on her neck and shoulders. She said her husband tried to come to her aid and he also was assaulted.

Adams' lawyer, Larry McDougal, said she had to be treated the following day for her injuries. It was not immediately clear why she waited more than a year to sue.

No charges were ever filed against Barkley, who was out of town Friday and unavailable for comment. A Rockets spokesman said the team would not comment.

The lawsuit is just the latest complaint against Barkley.

In June, he was fined and ordered to make community service visits to two children's programs to settle charges that he threw a man through a window at an Orlando, Florida bar last October.

In August 1997, a jury rejected a \$550,000 lawsuit from a man who claimed Barkley beat him up at a Cleveland nightclub.

And Barkley and fellow NBA player Jayson Williams were accused of being in a bar fight in Chicago in 1992. Charges were dropped.

Also in 1992, Barkley was acquitted of misdemeanor battery charges brought by a man who said the player broke his nose outside a Milwaukee bar.

## Goodwill Games Russian walkout threat spurs banishment of boxing officials

NEW YORK (AFP) — In the wake of a Russian threat to withdraw four boxing finalists from the Goodwill Games in protest of decisions by judges and referees, four tournament boxing officials were banished.

Cuba's Alfredo Toledo and Guatemala's Macario Sosa, who served as both referees and judges, plus Swedish judge Per-Olaf Larsson and German judge Dieter Milka were removed from title bouts Friday.

"We believe we have taken the action necessary and we are certainly pleased the Russians have decided to continue in the program rather than upset the goodwill created by the Goodwill Games," said Australian Arthur Tunstall, the International Amateur Boxing Association (AIBA) delegate to the Goodwill Games.

"It's unfortunate the Russians believe they were unjustly treated. Certainly there have been questionable, quite questionable, decisions. But I think that is always the case with amateur boxing. We just want to make it very clear that in our opinion it's not all one-sided."

Russian fighters lost 10 of 14 semi-final bouts. World 60-kilogramme champion Aleksandr Maletin fell 15-19 to Cuba's Mario Kindelan and world 63.5kg runner-up Paata Gvasaliya lost 12-5 to American Ricardo Williams.

Two narrow semi-final losses



South African Rik Neethling takes a breath as he swims in the men's 800m race for the World Team All Stars at the Goodwill Games against the USA. Neethling won the race with a time of 8:07.28 (Reuters photo)

ments, it was decided by the AIBA international jury that suspensions of certain officials were warranted. It's an unfortunate incident."

The suspended foursome must undergo re-testing before they are allowed to officiate in another international competition.

"Like everything in life, some people do become a little bit lax and they may be taking things for granted too much," Tunstall said. Russia's lone title in Friday's first six finals came when Andre Mishin beat American Larry Mosley 11-3 at 67kg.

Cuban reigning world and Olympic champion Maikro

final. Mario Kindelan won the other Cuban gold, beating 60kg rival Jacob Hudson of the United States 13-4.

The only bad news for Cuba came at 54kg where Uzbekistan's Timur Tulyakov landed a right and left to the head in the final seconds to upset Cuban 1997 world runner-up Waldemar Font 15-14.

American Todd Eldredge, who finished a disappointing fourth at the Nagano Olympics, won his first major international figure skating crown since the 1996 world championships, edging Russia's Aleksei Urmanov.

Urmanov was competing in his first event since a severe

groin injury at the 1997 world championships, a pain that kept him from defending his 1994 Olympic crown at Nagano.

American Tim Goebel landed a quadruple salchow, only the second quad by an American. Goebel, 17, has done them both. "I was absolutely thrilled," Goebel said. "It was probably the best program I have ever done in my entire life."

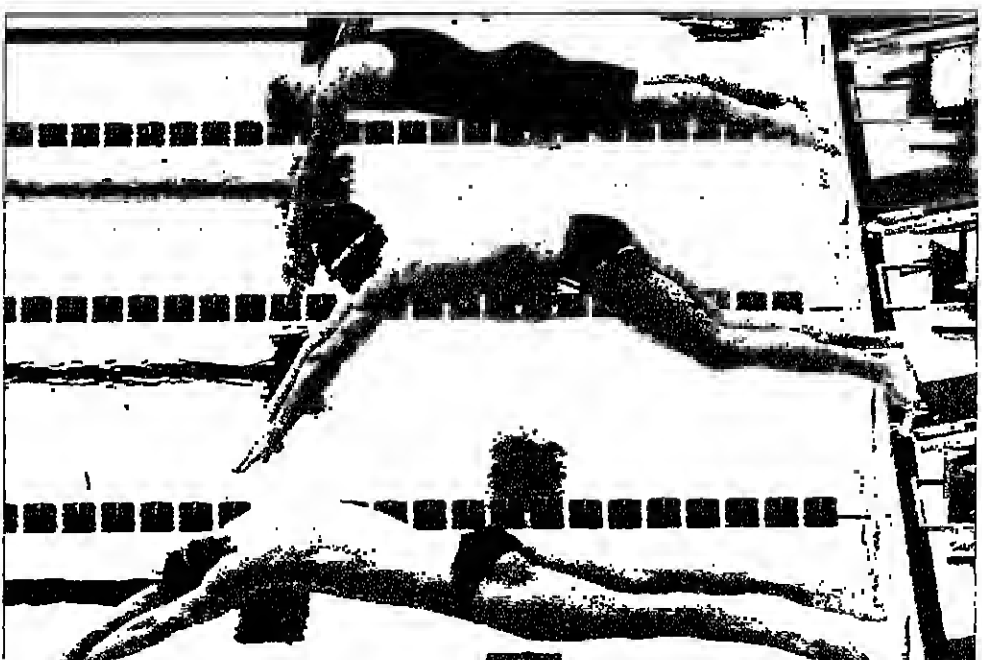
World champions and Olympic silver medalists Elena Berezhnaya and Anton Sikharulidze of Russia won the pairs competition with Nagano gold medalists Oksana Kazakova and Artur Dmitriev second.

In men's swimming dual meets, the World All-Stars routed the United States 78-43 while Russia beat Germany 84-38. The unbeaten World team can win the title by defeating Germany in Sunday's dual meet.

Canada's Curtis Myden swam a 1998 world-best time of 2:00.33 in the 200-meter individual medley while American Lenny Krayzelburg improved on his world-title winning time by taking the 200 backstroke in 1:58.17.

Brazil's Fernando Scherer became only the fourth man below 49 seconds in the 100 freestyle, clocking 48.91.

World beach volleyball number ones Shelda Bede and Adriana Behar of Brazil and Americans Lisa Arce and Holly McPeak completed preliminary play unbeaten and can advance to the finals with semi-final triumphs Saturday.



German Stefan Herbst (top) Russian Alexandr Popov (C) and German Alexander Luederitz dive into the pool at the start of the men's 50m freestyle race at the Goodwill Games. Popov won the race with a time of 22.75 (Reuters photo)

es annoyed the Russians. American Ebo Elder edged Dmitri Pavluchenkov 12-11 at 63.5kg when the Russian was denied a point on apparent equalizing blow in the final seconds.

"It was the opinion of the Russian Boxing Federation that judgments made by the officials were biased and led to the elimination of some of their boxers," Tunstall said. "Upon review of the judg-

ment, Romero beat Russia's Aleksan Nalbaniyan 10-5 for the 48kg title, the first of four won by Cuban fighters.

Reigning world and two-time Olympic champions Felix Savon and Ariel Hernandez claimed Goodwill gold. Hernandez edged France's Jean-Paul Mendy 15-14 at 75kg.

Savon stopped American DaVaryl Williamson 55 seconds into their heavyweight

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## Agassi, Henman advance to L.A. semis

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Andre Agassi kept up his recent habit of speedy victories, defeating Australian Sandon Stolle 7-6 (7-2), 6-2 Friday in just over an hour to advance to the Mercedes Cup semifinals.

Agassi won his ninth straight match without dropping a set since Wimbledon. His streak includes a title last week at Washington, where his matches averaged 59 minutes. He beat Stolle in 1 hour, 20 minutes.

"I tend to walk quick, but when it comes time to serve I slow it down," he said. "I don't think I rush out there."

Agassi advanced to Saturday's semifinals against Justin Gimelstob, who upset top-seeded Patrick Rafter 6-4, 6-3 in the night match.

"I know he wants a piece of me," said Gimelstob, who earned the biggest victory of his career here last year when he beat Agassi in the first round.

In other quarterfinals, No. 7 seed Tim Henman beat No. 7 Byron Black 5-7, 6-1, 6-4 and Guillaume Raoux of France ousted local favorite Michael Joyce 6-7 (7-9), 6-4, 7-5.

Agassi didn't take the court until nearly 0100 GMT after the two previous matches went three sets. By then, the sun was going down and towing trees on the UCLA college campus cast long shadows across the court.

"You can't see the ball at all that time of day," he said.

"My game is based around hitting the ball cleanly and I didn't have any confidence at all the first set that I could swing and hit it cleanly in the shadows."

Agassi's coach, Brad Gilbert, came on the court during the first changeover in the second set, part of the ATP Tour's experiment with coaching during matches. Los Angeles is the final stop in a five-tournament experiment.

"He was trying to get me to swing out on my shots because I couldn't see with the shadows," said Agassi, who played his first two matches here at night.

Agassi broke Stolle to take a 2-0 lead after Gilbert's two-minute pep talk. He fought off triple break point in the fifth game and took a 4-1 lead

when Stolle netted a forehand volley.

Stolle, whose father, Fred, won the doubles title here in 1968 with Ken Rosewall, held serve to trail 4-2. But Agassi held serve with an ace and then broke Stolle on his second match point to win.

Against Rafter, Gimelstob closed out the first set with a forehand crosscourt return. He ached Rafter to take a 4-1 lead in the second set. The Australian held serve and then broke back to trail 4-3. But Gimelstob, a former collegiate doubles champion at UCLA before turning pro in

1996, regained the break on Rafter's double fault for a 5-3 lead.

Gimelstob blew triple match point and survived two deuces before Rafter netted a forehand service return to end the match.

"It's just another loss. Life goes on," said Rafter, who'll defend his U.S. Open title later this month. "I'm still hitting the ball well, so I'm not too discouraged by the loss."

Gimelstob was cheered by several friends on the court where he played and practiced hundreds of times in college. "I'm not shocked, I'm excited," he said. "I've been working hard and preparing myself to win that kind of match. It's proof I'm ready to take the next step."

## GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANNIA HIRSCH

### RENDER UNTO CAESAR

Both vulnerable. South deals.

**NORTH**

♠ A 9 5 2

♥ 7 3

♦ A 8 7 3

♣ A 6 2

**EAST**

♠ Q 10 7 4 3

♥ Q 8 2

♦ K Q J 6

♣ 10 9 5 2

**SOUTH**

♠ K 6

♥ A K J 10 4

♦ 4

♣ K 9 8 4 3

The bidding:

**SOUTH** WEST NORTH EAST

1♣ Pass 1♠ Pass

2♠ Pass 2♠ Pass

3♠ Pass 3NT Pass

4♣ Pass 4♣ Pass

Opening lead: King of ♠

How you play one suit more often than not depends on the number of losers you have in others. Here is an example first reported by the late Terence Reese.

South wisely decided that the hand would play better in a suit contract than three no trump. Five clubs is actually the best game con-

tract, but four hearts is not unreasonable if declarer is an accomplished technician.

Suppose that South were to win the opening diamond lead in dummy and immediately take the heart finesse. That loses, and a diamond continuation forces declarer down to the same trump length as West. Now declarer can't draw all the trumps or else, when South surrenders a club, the defenders can cash at least two diamond tricks. No matter what South does, the contract will go down to defeat.

Correct technique is for declarer first to test the crucial side suit to find out how many tricks must be lost there. When both defenders follow to the ace and king of clubs, leaving declarer with just one loser in that suit, South can afford to concede two trump tricks. All declarer has to do is cash the ace and king of hearts and, when both defenders follow, the contract can be claimed.

Declarer abandons trumps in favor of surrendering a club. The diamond return is ruffed and declarer simply continues leading clubs. The defenders can ruff whenever they please, but there is no way they can get more than two hearts and a club.

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